TACITURNA

AND

JOCUNDA:

OR,

Genius ALACIEL's Journey

through thoſe two ISLANDS.

A

SATIRICAL WORK.

Tranſlated from the FRENCH.

LONDON:

Printed for R. WITHY, at the Dunciad in Cornhill; and J. COOK in May-Fair. MDCCLX.

TACITURNA AND JOCUNDA: OR, Genius ALACIEL's Journey through thoſe two Iſlands.

PART I. CHAP. I.

TWO nations hated one another without any motive, and waged war without intermiſſion; they valued without thinking, and imitated one another,

without being willing to do it. Theſe were the inhabitants of Taciturna, or the Gloomy Iſland, and thoſe of Jocunda, or the Merry Iſland. The Genii, their protectors, took a part in their animoſity, and the regions of the air daily reſounded with warm diſputes: Alaciel, the Chief of all the Genii, would re-eſtabliſh peace in his empire, and, if poſſible, between theſe two nations: to that end, he reſolved to take a trip thro' them both, and to bring the fooliſheſt of the two under the yoke of the wiſer, and to deſtroy all the fools of both; or, at leaſt, all thoſe whoſe folly went beyond the ordinary bounds.

First,

FIRST, he deſcended into Taciturna, a climate, where every individual thinks himſelf wiſe, dares to ſay it is ſo, and requires to be believed on his bare word.

A THICK and perpetual vapour covers this iſland, and fills the ſouls of its inhabitants with a certain ſadneſs, miſanthropy, and irkſomeneſs of their own exiſtence. Alaciel, was hardly at the firſt barriers of the metropolis, when he fell in with a peaſant, bending under the weight of a bag of gold, who made the beſt of his way; but, to all appearance, his heart was ſad and heavy. "What "care troubles you? ſaid Alaciel to him. "None," replied the wiſe

Ruſticus; " I only return to my na-
" tive village, to be there as tired, as
" I have been weary of myſelf whilſt
" in town."

" MAY I know," ſaid the Genius,
" the reaſon of your ſadneſs:" " I have
" no reaſon for it," replied the pea-
ſant; I " was born a beggar, and I
" have got riches: my wife prays for
" my long life, and none of my chil-
" dren wiſh me dead: I have juſt
" purchaſed the whole eſtate of the
" maſter whom I ſerved, and can, at
" any time, add new acquiſitions to
" it." " What then hinders your giv-
" ing yourſelf up to joy?" ſaid Alaciel
again. " Joy! what is joy?" aſked

the

the Taciturnian. "Joy! --- I know "it not; I never heard of it in this "iſland."

At theſe words he went off with his gold, and the Genius entered Sombragloomy (that was the name of the capital.) The town is immenſely large, and well peopled; the ſtreets are dirty, the buildings irregular, and the whole wears a gloomier look than any other part of the iſland. Hardly had the Genius got into the town, but a hawker made up to him with a morning Gazette, that is to ſay, one of thoſe ſheets which are daily filled with the dreams of news-makers, actions of ſovereigns,

projects, adventures, and impertinences of private individuals. The first paragraph Alaciel cast his eyes on, ran as follows:

" Six people only have made
" away with themselves since our last:
" 1. A young man of a good estate;
" he had been unhappy for a long
" time, and had never yet been weary
" of life: he got over all his misfor-
" tunes; married the Lady whom he
" loved--before, and even after enjoy-
" ment; both were happy, for they
" both thought so; but, they began
" to fear lest they should not always
" have felicity; therefore they agreed
" to

" to diſpatch themſelves with a brace
" of piſtols."

" A third was born hunch-back'd,
" and had been ſo theſe forty years;
" but that troubleſome burden tired
" him at laſt; and, to get rid of it,
" he has juſt hanged himſelf. The
" fourth drowned himſelf, for no
" other reaſon, (that I could learn)
" but becauſe he loved his Miſtreſs
" too ſincerely. A fifth, not being
" able to ſleep, has taken a doſe of
" opium, more than ſufficient to lull
" him into an eternal repoſe.

" The ſixth, was a poor wretch,
" who got himſelf out of the way,

" only becauſe he was not able to
" live any longer. We aſk the pub-
" lick's pardon for dwelling ſo long
" on ſuch trifles."

" WHAT a frenzy is this," ſaid the amazed Alaciel! " even the gods
" themſelves cannot ſatisfy this peo
" ple --- to annihilate them, would
" be, by far, an eaſier taſk"

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

TO the happineſs of overvaluing themſelves, this nation joined that of deſpiſing all the reſt of the univerſe. To be convinced of this Alaciel put on the dreſs, and aſſumed the language of a certain country; which formerly was as famous for its courage and conqueſts, as it is now contemptible for its intrigues and gallantries. "Are you," cried they, at firſt ſeeing of him, "a dan-"cer, a player, a fidler, or a caſ-"trato? How much do you aſk? "What is your price?"

"I AM

" I am," replied the Genius, " a " being ſomewhat graver; I bring " you ſound policy, polite man- " ners, true ----- " Hold your " tongue," cried they, and " get you " gone: it is only for diverting, " and not for inſtructing us, that we " retain fellows like you; ſhew " yourſelf on the ſtage, and if we " ſhould take a fancy to you, we " ſhall ſoon enable you to figure " with the moſt opulent lords of our " iſland." Alaciel would fain purſue his diſcourſe; but a certain Bramine made up to him, who, with bitter invectives, for want of good reaſons, confuted without hearing all that the Genius had to ſay. Both the

the Buzzers and the Hummers were about to ſurround him cloſely on all ſides, when he luckily perceived, that it was high time to be gone.

He made again his appearance, but under the dreſs of a German: they propoſed to furniſh him with arms, if he would fight, and with money, if he would obey. He would fain talk politics again, but they did not deign to liſten to him.

He appeared again, and ſaid; "I "was born in Iberia, the mighty," and then they began to liſten. An old politician undertook the anſwering his queſtions: he thought himſelf equal to the taſk, and even promiſed

miſed both to dive into the Iberian deſigns, and to lull him to ſleep till ſomething better could be done; but Alaciel ſmelt the cheat, and took his leave.

THE next time he ſhewed himſelf under the form of a Mandarine. "Ta-
" citurnians," cried he, "I bring you
" the laws and maxims of the wiſeſt
" and moſt ancient of all nations ---
" Softly, ſoftly," replied a wiſe Taciturnian, who ſpoke in the name of all: " As to your being more an-
" cient, that may be; but your be-
" ing wiſer than us, that I deny: you
" are ſlaves, and we are free, at
" leaſt, we are allowed to ſay ſo: you
" hold

" hold your laws from a lawgiver;
" we make and deſtroy ours when
" we pleaſe it is true: we have-
" invented nothing; but our maſ-
" ters deny not their being our diſ-
" ciples; take home your maxims,
" and leave us only your maggots
" and bawbles."

Alaciel turned his pyramidical cap into a turban, ſhortened his whiſkers, pared his nails, lengthened his beard, and put on the form of a follower of Omar. Now they flocked to him with no leſs amazement than curioſity; and, the Gazette of that day gave him the title of ambaſſador: in conſequence of this, it was publiſhed,

liſhed, that the Ottoman Porte was going in full ſpeed to hoiſt her Half Moon on the tops of two great ſteeples, viz. of Vienna and Peterſburg.

The politicians in a body waited on the Genius, and, after the firſt compliments offered him a few millions ſterling. "No," replied Alaciel, "I "have no ſuch news to impart to "you; our Janiſſaries hold ſtill their "white ſtaves ---- But, I was told, "you was a wiſe people, and, I had "an inclination to be convinced of "of it, by reaſoning a little with "you." Theſe words ſet all the Sages of the land a laughing.

"Reaſon-

" Reaſoning!" ſaid they, getting from and ſcorning the Genius; " reaſoning! a thing truly, a Turk " is capable of!"

His next appearance was in the dreſs of an Iroquois: " Tacitur- " nians, halloo'd he, I have ſtrenu- " ouſly fought your battles, and " have more than once drank in the " ſkulls of your enemies." He " ſeems to be a good ſubject," ſaid " one of the politicians, " let him be " tied faſt, leſt he ſhould turn a bad " one." They were going to follow " this advice; but the Genius did not think fit to wait for their fetters.

He

He ventured at laſt to appear in the dreſs of a Frivolite (ſo were called the inhabitants of Jocunda.) They at firſt ſight, abuſed him much, and were preparing ſomething worſe for him, when he bethought himſelf to addreſs them thus: "Behold, O "Taciturnians, I am one of your "moſt humble admirers; I once "wrote a book to your glory, and to "the contempt of my own nation: "I have therein maintained, that all "the Taciturnians were wiſe and "free; and, that we were neither "the one nor the other. Look, "whether I bear a greater love to my "nation than you do."

THESE words cooled their heat, and ſoothed the Taciturnian aſſembly: "He ſpeaks, ſaid they, as philoſophically as if he was born in "Taciturna; let therefore a medal "be voted and ſtruck to his honour." However, the Genius concluded from all the foregoing adventures, that this nation, ſo wiſe in her own eye, might be one day, either enſlaved or drowned.

To haſten his diſcoveries, Alaciel ſo contrived a taliſman of a double virtue, that thoſe towards whom it was directed, were forced either to prevent, or to anſwer the Genius's queſtions; and, moreover, to ſpeak the truth.

He alſo provided himſelf with two tablets; the one, to enter in the number of the Sages he was to ſpare; the other, to ſet in that of the fools he ſhould be forced to annihilate: the firſt was bound in Red, the other in Green: he deſigned to make very near the ſame uſe of both; but, you ſhall hear by and by, how a Genius himſelf may be ſometimes miſtaken.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

THEN Alaciel cried out, "Sages "of Taciturna, I come to rec- "tify my ideas by yours; I come to "learn of you how to throw a certain "eaſineſs in works of wit; a delicacy "in thoſe of ſentiment, and a taſte "in the productions of genius." His harangue was applauded; he was freely admitted into all the cabinets of the Virtuoſi: they, one and all, ſtrove to captivate his admiration: they had him to a number of Lite-

rati, who, here as there, buſied themſelves in bringing the events down to their ſyſtems, and not their ſyſtems to the events. Poets he ſaw, who, according to cuſtom, deteſted their fellow poets, and admired themſelves. Many of theſe had an imagination; a few had a genius; but few or none had a taſte: they durſt not, for ſhame, ſubmit to any rules; for, in literature, as in policy, liberty amongſt this people degenerates always into licentiouſneſs.

Most of theſe writers were buſy in reviling, copying, and disfiguring the works of thoſe of Jocunda. Alaciel ſpoke of it to a Taciturnian dramatiſt.

matiſt: "What would you have me "do," replied the poet, "My buſi- "neſs is to pleaſe my nation, and the "only means to bring a general clap "about, is (right or wrong) to rail at "our neighbours."

THIS argument did not prevail with Alaciel, who could not forbear proſcribing theſe ungrateful plagiaries, both for their coarſe imitations, and for their mean invectives.

IN ſhort, the Genius ſaw their philoſophers, whom, as a corps de reſerve, he had built great hopes upon: for the Taciturnian philoſophers were famous even amongſt

thoſe nations who were thought to be their foes. What boldneſs of calculation! what profundity in inquiries did the amazed Alaciel ſee here! Theſe philophers had, as it were, forced Nature to give an account of her inmoſt ſecrecies. The human mind could hardly proceed any further in ſo obſcure a road, than the Taciturnians had done; but they were not the firſt who laid the way, which acknowledgment put their ſelf-conceit to the bluſh. Alaciel affronted theſe famous diſciples, by daring to compare them to their maſters. That bold compariſon coſt him no leſs than the loſs of the medal, the ſtriking of which was by a contrary

trary act immediately repealed. On his ſide the Genius ſhut his red Tablet, which, but a few minutes before, he was going to make uſe of.

CHAP. IV.

LITTLE pleaſed with the taſte of authors, Alaciel had a mind to know that of the nation; he therefore went to a certain ſpectacle famous through the iſland; a numerous crowd ſurrounded the ſtage, whereon two intimate friends, for the ſake of giving ſport, and getting money, were preparing to chop off one another's limbs: they were uſhered in with trumpets, and other muſical inſtru-

inſtruments. The battle was no ſooner began, but it became hot and bloody. At the firſt onſet, one loſt an ear; but he ſoon made fair play of it, by chopping off, with one ſtroke, the calf of his adverſary's leg: another ſtroke, ſtill more lucky, made him victorious. Whilſt they were buſy in crowning him, amidſt the acclamations and ſhoutings of the rabble, Alaciel entered in his green tablet to the number of two thouſand of theſe inraptured ſpectators, uncertain whether he ſhould ſpare the reſt.

A FEW days after, the Genius was informed, that there were other ſpectacles

tacles in the iſland capable of raiſing the ſoul, and ſufficient to put impertinence to the bluſh. Thither Alaciel took his flight, and there he was pleaſed with the ſight of a great many boxes, graced with people of figure; but the pit was crammed with a crowd of ſeditious ſpectators: the play began by a ſmart and bloody ſkirmiſh between the two parties; many got blue and black eyes in the ſcuffle, ſome loſt a noſe, ſome loſt an ear; and now, all was huſhed again.

THE play was a tragedy, wrote by one of the moſt famous amongſt the Taciturnians: the action of the play

play comprehended ſixty whole years: the ſcene about eighteen thouſand miles: thirty dramatis perſonæ at leaſt, were equally principal in the play. At the end of each act, the Hero won a battle, took a town, ran his opponent through the body, and made four more to die: he put an end to his own labours, by making away with himſelf. Whilſt they are burying him on the ſtage, the grave-diggers, and the reſt of the actors are, by the fall of the vault, cruſhed under the ruins. Here the play ends, for want both of a ſtage and actors.

ALACIEL ſet down, in his green book, about two thouſand of the ſpecta-

ſpectators who clapp'd through ignorance, and about one thouſand more who applauded through national pride. However, he ſpared almoſt a dozen, who, within themſelves, wiſhed for a more regular entertainment.

This odd and ſingular tragedy, was followed by a farce, no leſs ridiculous: they played a whole army, and the general who commanded it: the army they attempted to play, durſt alſo, on its ſide, to beſiege one of the ſtrongeſt places in the Taciturnian iſland: all of a ſudden, news is brought, that this place ('till then thought impregnable) had juſt ſurrendered:

rendered: the farce goes no farther: the mob's thought is no longer, but on ſetting their miniſters houſes on fire, 'till the miniſters themſelves ſhall be played on the ſtage.

However, taking notice that Alaciel was a Frivolite, they reſolved to mob him before they ſhould burn their miniſters; but the Genius made uſe of the power he had of becoming inviſible, a ſhift very uſeful to all thoſe who would behold every tranſaction with impunity.

In the midſt of this univerſal conſternation, a Taciturnian cried out: "How then, fellow-citizens and

"country-

" countrymen, ſhall this news be ca-
" pable of damping your ſpirits?
" Have you forgot the victories your
" anceſtors won over this very ene-
" my you ſeem now to fear? Be ſtill
" yourſelves, I have calculated all:
" every mother's ſon of us, is equi-
" valent to ten of them: how many
" victories are you not to expect from
" ſuch a diſcovery? --- Put even the
" caſe, that you were always beaten,
" yet you ſhall never be leſs than ten
" times braver than your enemies."
The crowd ſhouted with joy, and clapp'd to the ſpeaker: bills of ſale were immediately put up at every corner, of all the ſhips the enemy's fleet was compoſed of, with ſtrict or-

ders

ders to one of their admirals to make ſure of them, under pain of being ſhot. Alaciel examined, with impartiality, the conduct of this brainſick rabble, and ſaw he could ſpare none of them.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

THEN the Genius made his appearance as a native of Monomotapa, a country where the rivers roll golden ſand in their boſom: the Taciturnians knew it very well, and for that reaſon Alaciel was well received: through his means, they hoped to purchaſe a few acres of land in Monomotapa, till they could ſeize on the whole without the trouble of purchaſing. "I am come," ſaid the Genius,

" Genius to learn of you how to form
" a right idea of true wiſdom, of
" ſound policy, and, above all, of li-
" berty." "All thoſe things," replied a modeſt Taciturnian, " you ſhall meet
" with here, and to no purpoſe would
" you ſeek for them any where
" elſe."

Alaciel aſked him a few queſtions, making uſe of his taliſman : " Iam, in
" ſome meaſure," replied the Taciturnian, " a Monarch of China, of Ton-
" quin, of Mogul, and, as it were,
" of all the places where I ſend to
" ſell my coals, needles, hard-ware,
" &c. Moreover, I am a member of
" a ſet of people in great eſteem in

" my nation : every citizen is here re-
" ſpected by the multitude, in pro-
" portion as his ſhips have been re-
" ſpected by the winds." He had hardly done ſpeaking, when a ſtout man, of a genteel air came in. The merchant received him with all the haughtineſs of a ſuperior, and what ſurpriſed the Genius the moſt, was, that he, who was ſo ſcornfully received, did not ſeem to take it amiſs. His viſit laſted but a few minutes, and when he took his leave, was bowed to only by Alaciel. " You have juſt
" ſeen," reſumed the merchant, " one
" of thoſe men whoſe trade it is to
" fight for us; we pay them for it, and
" they are ſuch fools too as to do it
" well.

" well. I myſelf was in the army
" during the peace; but I have left
" it, becauſe I hate war, and love
" money --- I may be a Lord when I
" have a mind to it."

" Amongſt our neighbours," added he, ſtill preſſed by the taliſman, " a military man, who has the ho-
" nour, as they call it, of owning but
" one leg, or one arm, deſpiſes a ci-
" tizen, who is ſo happy as to have
" all his members whole --- Here
" we value one who has got all his
" limbs entire, and his ſtrong boxes
" full of money." Then the Genius ſet in his green tablet both the ſoldier and the merchant; the one

for his inſupportable haughtineſs, the other for his cringing humility.

As Alaciel went along, he fell in with a boxing-match, who, like two rivals in fury, ſtrove to knock one another down --- A numerous mob, drawn in a ring, applauded the efforts of both; but, all of a ſudden, they left the conquered on the ground, and crowded to compliment the conqueror: the Genius approached the vanquiſhed, who ſtill ſprawled on the earth; he helped him up, and aſked him a few queſtions. "I am a Lord," replied he, "and my antagoniſt a "porter. Our diſpute aroſe about "which of us ſhould give the wall, and ſtrength

" ſtrength has juſt decided the matter
" between us." " What are then,"
interrupted the Genius, " the privi-
" leges of your Lordſhip's rank?"
" Why," replied the Lord, " I ap-
" proach my ſovereign when I have
" a mind, and I poſſeſs the firſt dig-
" nities in the ſtate. I divide my
" time between my horſes, my dogs,
" a kept miſtreſs, and the care of
" making my court. At my coun-
" try-ſeat, where I am generally a-
" lone, I do as I pleaſe; but here in
" town it is quite otherwiſe, where
" we are loſt amongſt the populace,
" who, now and then, to ſhew their
" liberty, make nothing of drubbing
" our Lordſhips."

Alaciel had ſoon an opportunity of knowing that his Lordſhip had ſpoke "upon honour" and not at all over-ſtretched the matter.

They told him of a certain nobleman, who, they ſurnamed the Sage, for no other reaſon but for his ſingularity in every thing: the Genius ſet out to ſee this gentleman in his retirement. The Sun had never reach'd the inner parts of this abode for forty years paſt; and the inhabitant of it was as averſe to ſeeing men as he was careful of ſhunning light. He was grieved at every thing in nature; he never laughed nor ſmiled, and put every morning the queſtion to himſelf,

ſelf, Whether or no he ſhould vouchſafe to live a day longer: he thought his own nation ſuperior to all others, and yet he deſpiſed it. At the Genius's firſt appearance, the nobleman ſurveyed him from head to foot, with a gloomy and ſcornful eye: on his ſide, Alaciel made uſe of his taliſman, and ſpoke thus: "You ſee be-
" fore you, an African, deſirous of
" being inſtructed. I croſſed the ſeas
" over to this iſland to ſeek, not for
" monuments, and maſter-pieces of
" art, but to ſeek men." "Men!
" did you ſay," replied the Miſantrope --- "you do them too much
" honour --- I ſhun them, and know
" not why they ſeek me --- My con-

" tinual meditation has been, for theſe
" thirty years, on the ridiculous con-
" ceit poets have of themſelves; on
" the impertinent pride of philoſo-
" phers; on the baſeneſs of cour-
" tiers, and perfidiouſneſs of miniſ-
" ters of ſtate; on the caprices of
" nature; on the inconſtancy of the
" ſeaſons; on cold, heat --- every
" thing ſtimulates me to deſpiſe my
" very being, and even to ſhake it off."

" Have you," aſked Alaciel, feeling for his green book, " have you
" ſuffered ſome great misfortunes?"
" None at all," replied the Taciturnian; " nay, I poſſeſs what they call
" birth and fortune: I have the glory
" of

" of having refuſed the firſt employ-
" ments of the ſtate, and that of be-
" ing eſteemed by my countrymen,
" while I deſpiſe them. Notwith-
" ſtanding all theſe ſuppoſed advan-
" tages, every thing teizes and wea-
" ries me to death." " Perhaps,"
ſaid the Genius, " you would wiſh to
" be ſomething more than what you
" are." " No," replied Miſanthro-
pos, " on the contrary, I rather per-
" ceive, that I could wiſh to be no-
" thing at all."

Alaciel diverted himſelf with wea-
rying this Taciturnian a little longer,
exhorting him to be more favourable
to human nature, which all his wrath

was

was inſufficient to change. However, the reputation of wiſdom, allowed to his Lordſhip, did not ſave his name from being entered in the green book.

The next perſon the Genius met with, was a man whoſe thought no worldly occupation ſeemed to take up: his whole dreſs was of a particular form, and his hat of an immenſe extent; he did not diſcompoſe it at the approach of Alaciel: "Friend," ſaid he, preventing the Genius's queſtions, "what doeſt "thou ſeek?" "A wiſe man," replied Alaciel, "and, I preſume, you "are him, ſince you ſeem to differ ſo "much

" much from the reſt of your coun-
" trymen." " No, verily friend," anſwered the Taciturnian, " I am " no Sage, neither do I know what " that thing is, which entitles men " to that honour, or, if I do know it, " I deſpiſe it." " What are then the " rules of your conduct?" purſued the Genius. " Verily, friend, I nei-" ther bow to, nor deceive mankind. " I deſpiſe no body; all men are " equal in my eye, and I declare " myſelf the foe of none. I pity " thoſe who think that any of the " four parts of this inhabited globe " is more valuable than the meaneſt " of its inhabitants." " How, aſk-" ed Alaciel again, can you avoid

" courting

" courting the Great?" " Verily, " friend, by never impoſing on thoſe " who are not ſo," replied he.

THIS diſcourſe confirmed the Genius in his opinion, that the man he ſpoke to was a Sage. He then aſked him whether he would not prefer the misfortune of bowing to a great man before that of lingering in a dungeon. " Not I verily, friend," replied he, " I had rather loſe my head, " than to uncover it thus unmanly." This nice ſcruple made Alaciel afraid he was miſtaken; " at leaſt," ſaid the Genius, " you might wear a hat of " a ſmaller ſize." " No, friend," replied he, " I cannot in conſcience wear

" wear it, a twelfth part of an inch " leſs." " Fare thee well, friend," added he, " I muſt leave thee, and " go to the meeting of the brethren, " to hear, or hold forth ſome elo- " quent diſcourſe. Methinks, the " ſpirit will move me to-day."

He left Alaciel with as little ceremony as he received him, and the Genius ſhut the red book.

To make ſhort, Alaciel, in queſt of wiſdom, ſought it amongſt the Bramines. Theſe were a ſet of happy mortals, if happineſs conſiſts in doing nothing. They at firſt dealt with the Genius as if he had been a ſavage,

vage, and, of courſe, eaſily to be impoſed upon; but, they could not reſiſt the taliſman; therefore, they told the Genius, that they had all, to a man, ſhook off the yoke of their Chief; that they, one and all, applauded a reformation, which leſſened their duties without leſſening their incomes.

Now Alaciel met a Bramine of a different claſs: this wore a dirty garment, greaſy hair, and a pale viſage; his pittance was but ſmall; but, he had the comfort of ſending to hell all thoſe who poſſeſſed larger ones. "Be-
"ware," ſaid he to the Genius, "be-
"ware of all thoſe who applaud the
"favourites of the Whore. They
live

" live in plenty, and lull in idleneſs.
" Their garments are coſtly and fine;
" their tables are daintily ſerved,
" whilſt the true ſervants of Brama
" can hardly get roots to live upon:
" theſe lie upon the bare ground,
" and are no better clad than you.

ALACIEL aſked him, What the true ſervants of Brama employed themſelves in? " They continually " bemoan the vices of their adverſa- " ries," replied the pious Bramine, " and charitably expoſe them to the " eyes of thoſe who unwarily might " take them for virtues."

THE Genius was going to proſcribe the whole reformation, when a Bra-

a Bramine of a different ſect made up to him. "You ſee, ſaid he, one of "our bittereſt enemies; that vermin "purſues us every where without "our being able to cruſh him under "our feet. Would to Brama to "haſten the moment!

At this wiſh, Alaciel ſhut his green book, reſolving not to proſcribe the Bramines till he ſhould proſcribe the whole nation; becauſe, ſuch as they were, he thought them neceſſary; he therefore ſuſpended his judgment, being before-hand perſuaded, that the only thing to be done, after he had thoroughly known this iſland, was to ſubmerſe it in an univerſal deluge.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

ALACIEL cried again; I expect from you, O Taciturnians, examples of ſound policy, and true liberty: then they had him into a place where all the orders met promiſcuouſly, and were loſt in the confuſed multitude. Here ſome hundreds of Taciturnians, (every one of whom thought himſelf a Sage,) laid wagers, diſputed, ſmoaked, and got drunk. It was here, Kings were

judged, their rights diſcuſſed, and their Miniſters damned. Alaciel perceiving one of theſe Sages who ſeemed to take no ſhare in the diſputes; and, thinking he was puzzling his brains after ſome point of moral or natural philoſophy made up to him, when all of a ſudden, "There "is ſome talk, ſaid the Sage in a "loud voice, that the enemy is hard "at work to equip a mighty fleet; "but, I lay ten to one, that ſome "gale of wind will diſperſe and ſcat-"ter it. They intend, if Fame ſays "true, to beſiege one of our ſtrongeſt "places; but, I lay an hundred to "ten they ſhall not take it. There "is alſo ſome talk of coming to a "battle

" battle very ſoon; but, I'll lay a " thouſand to nothing that we ſhall " win the day." Great applauſes were heard on all ſides, and this wagerer could meet with no opportunity to loſe his guineas. Alaciel aſked him, " If the iſland contained " many ſuch patriots?" " About an " hundred thouſand," replied the politician; " but, I am of thoſe " who have betted, and loſt moſt." Then the Genius wrote in his green book; " One hundred thouſand bet- " ters."

ANOTHER great perſonage was, by this time, ſurrounded, and queſtioned on all ſides: Alaciel went up

to him through the crowd. " May
" I alſo," ſaid the Genius, " aſk your
" advice in my turn? for I perceive
" you are a ſage." " I am ſomething
" more," replied the Taciturnian;
" for I am a prophet, and can ac-
" quaint you with many things you
" are quite a ſtranger to. For theſe
" ten years paſt, I have every month
" foretold the death of the Chief of
" the Bonzes, and, ſooner or later,
" my prediction ſhall come to paſs.
" I foretold, that the Frivolites
" would be always beaten, and upon
" no other certainty but my bare
" prediction, my country has waged
" war againſt them, even without
" the trouble of any previous decla-
" ration.

" ration. It is true, one of our beſt
" commanders has given me the lye,
" but it has coſt him his life. Do
" you want to know," purſued he,
" how long ſhall live the perſon you
" hate, the parent who has made you
" his heir, or the friend you would
" undermine? I am ſo certain of my
" performance, that Fate itſelf ſeems
" to obey my calculations."

" Are there many calculators like
" you upon this iſland?" aſked the Genius. " About ten thouſand," replied the Prophet; " but all have not
" the ſame reputation, nor ſuch an
" experience as mine is." Alaciel, without replying, ſet down in the

ſame book, " ten thouſand calcula-
" tors.'

THEN another great perſonage made up to Alaciel: " Are you," ſaid he to the Genius, " are you a Whig " or a Tory? or have you a mind to " become either? I write *pro* and " *con.* my praiſes are no leſs flattering " than my ſatires are bitter and ſharp. " I labour them with equal pains, " and I ſet them at the ſame price: " beſides, the reputation of both the " Generals and Miniſters is in my " hand: it is I, who approve or con-" demn; adopt or reject, and always " with equal applauſe. Look you; " here is a ſatire againſt the Miniſter

" in

" in favour; here is a libel againſt--- Alaciel would hear no more; he only aſked about the number of theſe writers; ſet them down in his book, and pleaſed himſelf before-hand with the thought of ſubmerſing them all one day.

HOWEVER, he had a mind to ſee the Miniſter who was thus expoſed by theſe vile ſcriblers: at the Genius's firſt admittance they made a parade of all the Taciturnian haughtineſs. Alaciel ſmelt it, and made uſe of his taliſman: then the maſk fell, and he ſaw a man buſy in adjuſting of intereſts which ſeemed incompatible: the intereſts of a King, who aimed

" at being abſolute imperceptibly,
" and thoſe of a people who would
" be free, deceived and governed.
" The Miniſter ſtrove to pleaſe both
" the Sovereign and the ſubjects; a
" hard taſk, and always ſuperfluous.
" You ſee, ſaid he to the Genius, you
" ſee the advantages of my employ-
" ment. Altho' often envied, they are
" not worth envying. I am an-
" ſwerable for events, which, at beſt,
" I can but plan: but my glory and
" my ſhame depend upon chance;
" a favourable wind may blow me
" praiſes and preſents; but a ſhip
" burnt by the enemy may as readily
" ſet my houſe on fire." " How
" then," ſaid Alaciel, " where are your
" laws

" laws, ſo famous for their wiſdom?
" Have they not prevented all? Have
" they not explained all?"

" OUR laws," replied the Miniſter, " diſtinguiſh between our inte-
" reſts, and thoſe of our Sovereign.
" Abroad he is a father, whom they
" reverence and love; here he is a ſtew-
" ard whom they perplex and cen-
" ſure. A father muſt be very cruel
" indeed, to work the deſtruction of
" his family, and a ſteward muſt be
" very virtuous not to prefer his own
" before the intereſt of his em-
" ployer."

WHILE

WHILE the Miniſter was ſpeaking theſe laſt words, a letter was brought in, and being preſſed by the taliſman, he communicated it to Alaciel. The following is a copy.

" ALL the votes out of three hun-
" dred, we have brought over to our
" ſide except two; theſe two will
" coſt dearer. The owners, who
" ſell them, are two good patriots.
" Send me two thouſand guineas."

THE Miniſter let the Genius into the ſecret of what the letter did not explain: he told him, that it was concerning the general aſſembly of the nation; how the Sovereign could do

do nothing without the aſſembly's conſent; then how that conſent was always brought over to what the Sovereign had reſolved: "They are go-
"ing now," purſued he, "to anſwer
"thoſe gracious ſpeeches that always
"contain ſome demand. They will
"examine accounts, which are ſure
"to paſs, and take into conſideration
"ſubſidies that ſhall be granted."

ALACIEL had a mind to be an eye-witneſs of what he heard; he entered, without being perceived, into that venerable and bluſtering aſſembly. The diſpute was hot concerning certain articles, which, for that time, remained undecided. The

Miniſter's

Miniſter's agent, who was charged with the buying of votes, had forgot one, and this forgotten one ſuſpended the ſcale. The Miniſter repaired this blunder of his agent, and carried his point by a plurality of voices.

The ſeſſion being ended, the herald, in a loud and audible voice, ſaid to the people: "O Taciturnians! "Taciturnians! Taciturnians! we "are a free people;" but, whilſt he was a haranguing thus, many harmleſs and peaceful creatures, were, in ſpite of freedom, dragged along, with violence and cruelty, to be ill-paid, and ill-uſed, in the ſervice of their country, either by ſea or land.

"O fool-

" O fooliſh and vain nation!" cried Alaciel in his turn, " give over thy " impertinent ſcoffing at the ſeeming " ſlavery of thy neighbours. They " obey only in conformity to their " laws; but thou, thou art made a " ſlave of againſt the ſpirit of thine."

By this time it grew pretty late. Alaciel was glad of it; for he had a mind to ramble in the night for ſome other diſcoveries. He went to a great many houſes; ſaw women turn the abſence of their huſbands to ſome purpoſe: he ſaw Noveliſts hard at work in manufacturing of news, which the next day were to give weight to a conſiderable wager; poets,

ets, who were getting impromptu's ready; citizens ſettling their affairs to hang themſelves next morning: one of theſe laſt ſcorned to wait for Aurora; he was a patriot, zealous for the ways and cuſtoms of his country: he had ſeen a Dane, whoſe too ſhort ſhaped dreſs ſeemed to affront the long ſhape of the Taciturnian garment: he was too good a patriot to bear with this outrage done to his country. He gathered a mob about the poor Dane, headed it, and purſued the ſport perhaps a little too far, but did not care a pin for the event; for, at his return home, he courageouſly hanged himſelf.

ALACIEL

ALACIEL did not think fit to begin the liſt he had in view by any of theſe gentry. He went further on, and arrived at a place which was all over hung with black: a ſepulchral lamp gave light to this gloomy abode, or rather this tomb, inhabited by a well-made young man, and a woman of perfect beauty. Alaciel tried the man with his taliſman. He did not reſiſt. "What," cried he, "ſhall "I be any longer a prey to the miſ-"fortune of living?" Then turning towards his companion: "Can'ſt "thou reſolve to follow my courage? "Thou knoweſt I have left nothing "untried to determine thee to it; I "have got thee away from the "world,

" world, from ſociety, and even from
" the very light; put therefore an
" end to what I have begun, or de-
" termine thyſelf to ſee me die a-
" lone." " No," replied ſhe, drown-
ed in tears, " thou ſhalt not die
" alone, I'll follow thee: But why
" ſhouldſt thou die? What are thy
" misfortunes? I love thee; Am I
" nothing in thy Eye?" " Thou lov-
" eſt me," reſumed he in a mourn-
ful tone, " thou loveſt me; I adore
" thee, and yet I am weary of life.
" My misfortunes, although paſt,
" are ſtill preſent to my memory. ---
" Fatal Leaven! that poiſons every
" moment of my life: I ſhall never
" forget the perfidiouſneſs of the Mi-
" niſters,

" niſters; the injuſtice of my coun-
" trymen, nor the hardneſs of my
" relations. Do but recollect, that,
" for our coming together, I was
" forced to renounce all my preten-
" ſions: I have ſeen thee languiſh
" for want, and I myſelf have been
" expoſed to ignominy and ſhame. I
" am now rich, but I was once very
" poor, and I may be poor again;
" they now offer me employments;
" but they once took mine from me.
" I have got my eſtate again; but
" they once ſtript me of it. I have
" got friends now; but, during my
" misfortunes, they left me. To
" make ſhort, we love one another
" now; but, we may ceaſe doing ſo.

" Is not all this more than ſufficient
" to determine us to die?"

At theſe words, he ſtrove to reach a dagger, but an inviſible hand ſtopt him; it was the Genius, and the Taciturnian imputed it to his own cowardice. This criſis being over, Alaciel foreſaw that the like fit ſhould not return; therefore, he left off his nocturnal rambles, being perſuaded, that ſoon he ſhould be obliged to drown all thoſe who durſt not diſpatch themſelves.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

NOW it remained only to know the women of this iſland. Alaciel thought he muſt, for that purpoſe, ſhake off his African figure: he therefore borrowed that of a petit-maitre of Jocunda: he put elegancy in his dreſs, impudence in his carriage, and vivacity in the whole man. He knew how to ſet off in the beſt manner his aerian form; he was ſoon made ſenſible, that the Taci-

turnian women did not keep up always to the natural antipathy of the two nations: he met with no cruel ones; many prevented his addreſſes, and, had he not been a ſpirit, you would have ſworn, that the goddeſs of Love had made him the darling of her empire. All the Taciturnian ladies lived, at that time, a life no leſs diſagreeable than irkſome; their huſbands were always their maſters, and their lovers were never their ſlaves. Alaciel had a notion, that the Taciturnian women paid but an indifferent regard to Cupid, and were, perhaps, proof againſt his arrows. Walking along, full of this thought, who ſhould he perceive but a Taci-

a Taciturnian maid, whoſe bloom-ing youth was more than ſufficient to draw attention even from a Genius: he viewed her, followed her, and had almoſt made up to her, when, all of a ſudden, ſhe threw herſelf into a neighbouring pond; Alaciel jumped in after her, and took her out, not-withſtanding her reſiſtance: divers ſpectators ran to the place; but none ſhewed the leaſt ſurprize at the acci-dent. The Genius's aſtoniſhment redoubled; but, they cooly told him, that the cuſtom in Sombragloomy was to drown one's ſelf, when one ei-ther loved too ardently, or was not beloved, or had a mind to be no longer the ſport of Love; and, that

the cuſtom alſo was to pitch upon this pond preferably to ſalt water.

[It would be ill performing the character of a petit-maitre, or even of a Genius, ſhould Alaciel be contented with this bare and ſhort ſtory. You ſhall hear what the fair Taciturnian told him herſelf; but, for the honour of this work, it is to be obſerved, that, before ſhe began her ſtory, ſufficient care had been taken to bring her to herſelf.]

"I am," ſaid ſhe to the Genius, "the daughter of a nobleman of this "metropolis, an only daughter, rich, "and of courſe, wooed and courted:

"young

" young Walſtan loved me, and I
" wiſhed him well: our age, our
" birth, and, what ought moſt to
" have pleaded for us, our fortunes,
" were pretty near equal; but, the
" hatred our families bear one ano-
" ther, is, if poſſible, greater than
" our love. Both our families were
" alarmed at our firſt liking one ano-
" ther; and, we were ſtrictly en-
" joined, on both ſides, to drop even
" the very thought. Promiſes, threat-
" enings, perſecutions, nothing was
" left untried; but all to little pur-
" poſe: I was cloſely confined, and
" Walſtan was ſent on his travels; all
" vain! by as much they endea-
" voured to make him odious in my

" eyes, by ſo much more he became
" daily dearer to me: to make ſhort,
" he came home, and, in ſpite of our
" families, all the neceſſary meaſures
" were taken to unite us for ever,
" when I, to my great ſurprize, re-
" ceived the following letter."

" I love you, and am convinced
" you love me; my ſatisfaction is
" compleat: it may ſo happen, that
" one day you would love me no
" longer; I may perhaps ceaſe loving
" of you: you may, perhaps, be weary
" of loving; perhaps I may: believe
" me; let us love without ſeeing one
" another more, that neither of us
" may be witneſs of the moment
" wherein

" wherein we ſhould ceaſe loving " mutually."

" So odd a reſolution in my lover," purſued ſhe, " made me mad: I did " all I could to engage Walſtan to " drop it; I juſt wrote to him, and, " my letter acquaints him, that, by " this time, I am no more. Indeed, " I went out this morning with a " full reſolution of executing what " your generoſity has put a ſtop to; " but, you have delayed the deed only " for a few minutes: for it is de- " cided" --- A ſigh, and ſome tears, put an end to the ſpeech of the lovely Taciturnian. Alaciel exhorted her to truſt to her charms, the care

of

of bringing back to his duty that inconſtant lover, or to captivate more conſtant ones; but nothing ſeemed to quiet her. All of a ſudden a young man ran towards the pond whom ſhe immediately knew to be Walſtan. The letter of the afflicted fair one had kindled all the fire of that ſingular lover; grieving at the loſs of her whom he had ſhunned when alive, he came reſolved to follow her. As a true lover, he pitched on the pond as the ſhorteſt way. He was going to throw himſelf in, but was hindered by her whom he thought of following. This ſcene had ſomething very ſingular and very moving in it.

Now

Now the Genius was going to congratulate them upon this happy re-union, when to make it compleat, up came the parents of the amorous couple. Theſe two houſes, equally rich, had hated for forty years, ſued at law for thirty years, and had not been able to beggar one another; *a ſtrong motive for an eternal hatred!* however, they gave their conſent to the uniting of the two lovers, hoping, by that means, to hinder them from drowning, and, perhaps, from ſhewing too much love to one another in the time to come.

THIS adventure convinced Alaciel that the Taciturnian ladies did not

not trifle with love; but treated it very ſeriouſly: he therefore went no farther than paying the ſex that common civility, which, in other countries, means nothing; but, in Taciturna, common civility is of great ſignification. Although Alaciel had, for a while, kept to common civility, he took in his head one day to ſcrew a cloſer acquaintance with a young widow lady, who, to a charming wit, joined the advantage of a beauty; fair complexion; fine ſhape; an Engliſh neck; eyes the more adorable for having a little caſt; ſweet as honey to all appearance, but, in reality, bitter as wormwood: in ſhort, ſhe was capable either to fix, or to

make

make an inconſtant lover to tremble.

ALACIEL thought it prudent to drop her acquaintance, before her paſſion had grown ſtrong enough to carry her to the pond. He even thought it high time to leave an iſland that nothing could ſave from deſtruction. He paid thoſe he had employed, and was going to take his flight, when in ruſhes the young widow; having, by her ſcouts, received timely notice of the Genius's departure, ſhe came to abuſe him, or perhaps worſe. Love, ſpite, and fury poſſeſſed her by turns, and interrupted her diſcourſe. Alaciel, being a Genius, had all the wit imagi-

imaginable: he made uſe of all the rhetoric he was maſter of to make the Lady be herſelf, but all to no purpoſe. Wit and rhetoric are but poor ſhifts, which, a woman in love, if you once provoke her, ſhall never be aſſwaged by.

WHAT to do, or how to extricate himſelf, Alaciel knew not; for being a Genius, he could not prevail with himſelf to tell a lye, a ſhift ſo very ſubſervient in love, and ſo neceſſary to lovers. The too great ſincerity of his diſcourſe made the young widow more furious; ſhe aimed at him ſeveral times with a dagger ſhe had in her hand, and

then

then turned the weapon to her own breaſt. Alaciel ſtopt her, and then ſhe perceived he was invulnerable. He told her the reaſon of it. And, as the Genius had foreſeen it, ſhe found therein a motive of comfort; her pride being no longer at ſtake, ſhe was eaſily brought to reaſon. The widow withdrew pleaſed, and perſuaded, that he muſt really be a ſpiritual being that would not yield to her charms. "O Wiſ-
"dom!" ſaid Alaciel, as ſhe went away, "Where art thou to be
"met with upon earth? Thou
"dwelleſt neither with the news-
"monger that lays bets, the calcu-
"lator that miſtakes, the politician

that

" that is often out; nor the philoſo-
" pher, that very often loſes his
" way. Dwelleſt thou with the
" poet, or even with the Bramine?
" Does the Miſanthrope know thee?
" No: ſtill leſs doeſt thou dwell
" with the courtier that creeps and
" crouches, with the miniſter that de-
" ceives, with the people that are de-
" ceived, with the lover that drowns
" himſelf, with the huſband that kills
" his wife, nor with the widow that
" attempts to ſtab her lover."

THEN the Genius ſtretched both his arms to ſubmerſe a people ſo enormouſly different of what he thought them to be; but, upon ſe-

cond

cond thought: "perhaps, ſays he, "the inhabitants of Jocunda deſerve "no better treatment than theſe; "therefore let us ſuſpend our judg- "ment till we have taken a ſurvey of "them both."

END OF THE FIRST PART.

JOCUNDA:

OR,

THE MERRY ISLAND.

PART II. CHAP. I.

A SMALL arm of the ſea parts the two iſlands: Alaciel had no ſooner croſſed it, but he began to breathe a purer air: he was, as it were, ſeized with a ſudden merrineſs, peculiar to the climate. The people, who inhabit it, ſeem never grieved at any thing: they

they ſing in the ſame merry tone both their victories and loſſes: they publiſh their frivolities; are taken up with the leaſt trifles; laugh at affairs of importance, and are as much afraid of ſhewing any ſigns of wiſdom as their neighbours are fond of being thought wiſe.

HERE the Genius ſaw ſhepherds free from all worldly cares, dance in rags, and without ſhoes. A little further, the huſbandmen ſung, and whiſtled a tune whilſt they purſued their daily painful work. Still further, to the very top of a hill, climbed a man with his fowling-piece, with all the toil and pleaſure imaginable.

ginable. Alaciel feigned a pretence, and made up to him: "I give Chance "thanks that has led you to my ſo- "litude," ſaid he to the Genius; "vouchſafe to take a thorough ſur- "vey of it, and view what they call "my caſtle." Alaciel followed him, and was welcomed with that eaſy po- liteneſs, ſeldom to be met with in Taciturna; to which he made ſuch returns as might be expected from a Genius who is of all countries.

To make his curioſity look more pardonable, and leſs impertinent, he put on the form of a Chineſe: "You "ſee," ſaid his hoſt to him, "the "ſmall remnants of a once *bril-*

"*liant*

" *liant* fortune, but quickly reduced " to what you ſee. What misfortune " has made it to diſappear ſo ſud- " denly," aſked the Genius? " None " at all, but of my own making," replied the Frivolite, with a ſerene and pleaſed look. " I took the moſt effi- " cacious means to work my own " ruin : friends, law-ſuits, ſtewards, " equipages of the neweſt faſhion, " and women of the greateſt repute. " I gave to flatterers, borrowed from " uſurers, kept a great houſe in town, " and went often to my little cot- " tage *. Now, purſued he, I have

* A ſmall houſe in ſome private place in the country, where the Frivolite nobility uſe to retire with their kept miſtreſſes.

" neither friends, flatterers, ſtewards,
" nor miſtreſſes, becauſe I poſſeſs no
" longer that which tied them to me.
" I left the metropolis, where I was
" too much eclipſed, to inhabit this
" ſolitude, where I have found un-
" expected pleaſures. The beauty
" of nature; the warbling of birds,
" the ingenuity of a ſhepherdeſs,
" make me forget the luxury of ci-
" ties, the charms of coquets, and
" the bewitching art of miſtreſſes.
" Had a Taciturnian met with ſuch
" a change of fortune as I have, he
" would undoubtedly have made uſe
" of opium; but here we dare to
" die only for the ſake of glory, or
" to avoid ſhame."

ALACIEL,

ALACIEL, pleaſed with this philoſophy, was going to open his red tablet, when word was brought in, that a neighbouring gentleman had ſhot a lark on the Sage's ground: ſuch treſpaſs was a motive more than ſufficient to run to arms; and, he who had courageouſly ſquandered his fortune, and bore the change without ſo much as a thought of making away with himſelf, would now expoſe his life for the ſake of a lark.

THE Genius brought an accommodation about between the two neighbours, and ſhutting his red tablets, purſued his way: he ſaw nobles who had ſquandered, and mer-

chants who had got, vaſt fortunes; the peaſants, he ſaw were really poor, but chearfulneſs reigned every where.

DRAWING towards the metropolis, he ſaw all its avenues ſwarm with carriages of all kinds, and with people of all conditions: grave ſenators reſorted thither to divert their leiſure hours; financiers to ſhew their luxury; and young people of both ſexes to make a parade of their inſignificancy. There walked on a level the patrician and the plebeian; the lady, the tradeſman's wife, and the griſette. All were confuſed, crammed, and pleaſed. A numerous crowd,

crowd, drawn by the Chineſe dreſs, ſurrounded Alaciel: "Are you," ſaid they, "an emperor, a ſage, a litera-"tus, a dancer, or a pantomime? "Come and aſcend our ſtage; there "you ſhall be ſure of being applaud-"ed. We intereſt ourſelves for your "heroes, and your heroines are un-"der our particular care. We won-"der at your ſages; your panto-"mimes are charming, and your "dancers perform to admiration."

A FINE chariot ſtopt: a youth open-ed the glaſs door: "Have you got," "ſaid he to the Chineſe, "a good "ſtock of maggots and baubles? I "want to buy to the value of ten or "twelve

" twelve thouſand piſtoles: a young
" ſinger, who is to love me for a fort-
" night, waits only for this laſt com-
" plaiſance of mine to make me ---
" I have calculated all the expences;
" one million of livres a miſer, (an
" uncle of mine) has unwillingly left
" me will be ſufficient for the afore-
" ſaid fortnight."

ALACIEL had diſpatched the ſpark no ſooner, but two other perſonages made up to him: they were on foot, but made more noiſe than a coach and ſix: " Judge between us," cried one of the two Literati to the Genius; " I maintain that, for theſe " four or five hundred thouſand

" years

" years grimaces have been kept
" up in China; then I maintain, that
" all your philoſophers were ſages,
" and all your artiſts models that
" ſhould be followed; that all your
" pagods are as large as temples, and
" all your houſes as palaces; that all
" your villages are like towns, and
" all your towns larger than cities."

ALACIEL had no time to anſwer before another equipage came up: it contained a lady richly dreſſed, who aſked the Genius whether he had any ſlight, plain, dark ſilk left? " For," added ſhe, " this ſhewy " tiſſue ſuits not with a woman of " my quality. Tiſſues of all kinds

" are

" are going out of fashion: they sell " now so cheap, they are only fit for " servant wenches and slaves." As the Genius betrayed some surprize, " We have been forced by our ex- " pences," pursued she, " to the ne- " cessity of retrenching from our " dress (to distinguish ourselves from " the vulgar) as we are obliged, for " fashion-sake, to make ourselves " ugly by painting, because it gives " a good grace to women of an in- " ferior rank."

JUST by a quack daubed (as his own fancy led him,) some pasteboard boxes, which he had the impudence to barter with his customers for boxes

of

of gold. Alaciel could not forbear upbraiding him for thus groſſly duping his countrymen. " Not I," replied the quack, " I dupe no body, " I only yield to the itch ye have of " being duped. I ſaw they ruined " themſelves to enrich the Chineſe " dawbers; methought I had as good " a right as the Chineſe have to the " folly and money of my country- " men: therefore I begun to daub " every thing. Temples, palaces, " cottages, equipages, ſnuff-boxes; " every thing ſpeaks my varniſh. Our " luxury ſacrifices no longer, neither " to the richneſs of the materials, nor " the beauty of execution. At firſt, " a few Frivolites took it in their

" head

" head to declare, forſooth, againſt " the inſupportable ſmell of my " boxes. I foretold them, that very " ſoon the ſmell they complain'd of " would be in faſhion. They went a- " way pleaſed with my anſwer, and, " what I then foretold, is come to paſs."

ALACIEL concluded from this diſcourſe, that, perhaps, the quack was in the right, and the Frivolites unqueſtionably in the wrong. He ſaw a great deal more, which made him think, that if the whole nation was not ſubmerſed, it would ſoon prove intirely Chineſe: however, he made no uſe of his green book; for the queſtion here was not ſo much who he ſhould drown, as who he ſhould ſpare.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

HE changed his form, and appeared again under that of a ſavage. New queſtions! new crowds about him! they gazed on him as on a rare and curious beaſt: they offered him clothes, and wherewithal to cleanſe himſelf; but, whilſt they were ſpeaking, in came a man ſtill more dirty and more naked, crawling on his feet and hands, and, to all appearance, well pleaſed with his poſture:

poſture: he even obſerved, that the Genius had already parted from pure nature; the pyramidical cap and feather being, ſaid he, ſuperfluous, and favouring of luxury. He exhorted Alaciel to pull them off, and to walk on his feet and hands: then directing his diſcourſe to the crowd about him; "O! man," cried he, "of whatever "rank, country, and manners thou "art (except thou art a ſavage) liſten "and reform thyſelf. The firſt man "who made himſelf coverings, and "built lodgings, gave himſelf unne-"ceſſary trouble, ſince till then he "had gone without: neither can it "be conceived why he could not live "in his mature age after the ſame

"manner

" manner he lived in his infancy.
" What do I ſay? the firſt man who
" found out wooden ſhoes, ought to
" have been puniſhed as a favourer
" of luxury, and corrupter of ſociety:
" for, the more I reflect, the leſs I
" find the ſtate of Nature liable to re-
" volutions. Nakedneſs is the ori-
" ginal ſtate of Nature, and, the
" departing from nakedneſs, would
" be occaſioned only by ſome fatal
" chance, which, for the good of
" common utility, had been better
" not to have happened. The exam-
" ples of the ſavages, who almoſt all
" have been found in this ſtate, ſeem
" to confirm, that human nature was
" made to remain always therein.

" This ſtate is the true manhood of " the world: any further progreſs, " although it ſhould ſeem a ſtep to- " wards the perfecting of individu- " als, tends, in reality, to the de- " cripidneſs of the ſpecies. Once " more I ſay; nakedneſs was the ori- " ginal ſtate of man: it is the ſpirit " of ſociety thus changes and alters " our natural inclinations: I there- " fore maintain, that a ſtate of re- " flection, is a ſtate againſt Nature, " and that, whoſoever meditates, is " a depraved animal."

A thouſand hiſſings interrupted the orator; but, the more they hiſſed, the more he ſeemed pleaſed with himſelf,

himſelf, as a man to whom his own conceit is ſufficient: "Go on," cried he to the hiſſers; "hiſſing keeps "you from doing worſe; and, ſince "it is ſo, I wiſh I could harangue "you for ever."

TYMON (that was the name of the four-footed philoſopher) beckoned to the Genius to follow him, which Alaciel did willingly; for, he had a mind to know more particularly that extraordinary man: they ſtopt near a palace where architecture had diſplayed all its riches, and genius all its efforts. Tymon could not, without indignation, behold theſe wonders: "Gods!" cried he, "what is

" become of the huts and cottages
" where moderation and virtue were,
" in the time of yore, pleaſed to
" dwell? What fatal luxury has ſuc-
" ceeded to the ſimplicity of our an-
" ceſtors? What means that foreign
" language? What thoſe effeminate
" manners? What mean thoſe ſta-
" tues, pictures, and edifices? O ſilly
" mortal! What haſt thou done?
" Make haſte to pull down thoſe am-
" phitheatres, burn thoſe paint-
" ings."

THEN they went towards the Lyceum (that was the name of a certain place) where forty wits uſed to meet to talk news, receive counters, and

and diſtribute premiums, very often ill deſerved. Tymon went in; for Tymon was more than a philoſopher: he was a poet, an orator, a muſician; he had all his life wrote againſt philoſophy, letters, arts, and ſciences; and, poſſibly, no mortal ever declaimed more eloquently againſt eloquence, or ſhewed more erudition in favour of ignorance than Maſter Tymon had done. The following was his ſpeech to the fellows of the Lyceum: "Men are perverſe "and wicked; they would be ſtill "worſe, were they born men of letters. "The planet that enlightens us du-"ring the night, has not a greater "influence on the flux and reflux of

" the ocean, than the progreſs of arts
" and ſciences, has on manners and
" probity. Virtue was ſeen to fly
" from us, in proportion as know-
" ledge roſe on our horizon; and the
" ſame phænomena has conſtantly
" been obſerved in all times and in
" all parts. He who invented the ſci-
" ences was a god, an enemy to the
" repoſe of man: know therefore, O
" people, that Nature's intention was
" to preſerve you from knowing, as
" a mother ſnatches a dangerous
" weapon out of the hand of her
" child. All the ſecrets Nature hides
" from you are as many evils from
" which ſhe preſerves you: even the
" diſcouraging difficulties you meet

" with

" with in the progreſs of learning,
" are as many of her kindneſſes to
" you; go therefore into the thickeſt
" foreſts, and there forget the learn-
" ing and crimes of your fellow-
" creatures. Be never ſorry for part-
" ing with their learning, provided
" you but part with their vices."

THEN Tymon came up to the judges, and proffered his head to be crowned: he ſhewed them the laurels another Lyceum had adorned his forehead with: for Tymon aimed at being reputed eloquent --- eloquent even while he cried eloquence down. The example of the other Lyceum was not followed

here: his judges exhorted him to reaſon as he wrote; but Tymon would reaſon after his own way; therefore he maintained, in his next work, that academies were no leſs pernicious to letters, than letters were to manners.

ALACIEL made uſe of the taliſman, and then Tymon confeſſed that his falling out with human nature was only to win their eſteem; "for," added he, "whoſoever ſeems "to deſpiſe his contemporaries is "ſure of bringing them under. I "got myſelf admired, by finding "fault with all, and I got my writ-"ings read by crying down all ſort "of

" of learning. I ſhould ſtill be un-
" known to the world, had I (which
" was an eaſy matter) aimed only at
" common ſenſe."

ALACIEL was far from being tempted to begin his liſt of ſages with the name of Tymon: however, it was now high time for him to change his form: for, the Frivolites began to be tired with the ſtale figure of a ſavage, and that of a rhinoceros juſt landed, drew now all the nation to that quarter.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

ALACIEL put on the form of an Ultramountain, and ſaw the Frivolites divided on his account: he propoſed to furniſh them with the choiceſt products of his country. "Every thing that comes from thence "is admirable," cried ſome; "Nothing "that comes from thence is good," ſaid others. Tymon appeared again, "Come," ſaid he to the falſe Italian, "let us perſuade this people to ſhake off

" off a kind of frenzy they have to
" ſing in their own tongue. They
" have had operas here for very near
" a hundred years, yet I maintain
" they have no muſic of their own,
" they ſhall never have any, or, if
" they have, ſo much the worſe
" for them." Being forced by the taliſman, he added, " I have myſelf
" compoſed an opera, which I main-
" tain to be a very good one, altho' of
" the ſame kind with thoſe I con-
" demn; but, good as it is, I am not
" ſo fond of it as I am proud of ſtand-
" ing alone againſt a whole nation,
" and of being the only one of my
" opinion."

TYMON

TYMON was followed by a little man who profeſſed chiromancy. Alaciel aſked of him who he was? "A Bohemian by birth, and, of "courſe, a prophet, replied the "little man; but, notwithſtanding "that quality, and that of a Bipede, "which I am reſolved never to part "with, I am the moſt humble diſ-"ciple of the great man you ſee "crawl on his feet and hands."

THEN Tymon beat time as well as he was able; and the little prophet ſung a tune of buffoonry, which a few Frivolites ecchoed; but a great number kept ſilence, to whom Tymon

mon cried loudly to ſing as his diſciples, and to walk as he himſelf did.

A CROWD of muſicians of the Merry Iſland ruſhed in, and ſtopt the concert: ſome lovers of muſic, and ſome wits, gave good reaſons for ſo doing. Tymon anſwered by paradoxes, and the diſpute ended by the parties agreeing in no one thing.

THEN another muſician made his appearance, whom the Frivolites admired, altho' a native of the country. This man had ſtudied as a philoſopher, and perfected the art as a man of genius: a few tunes of his operas were ſung before the divided audience.

ence. An harmony ſo bewitching, thunder-ſtruck the ears of the Ultra-mountains: they immediately took to their heels, and either repaſſed the mountains, or croſſed the ſeas.

Now it was again high time for Alaciel to change his dreſs: he put on an Eaſtern diſguiſe: a man dreſſed in a like habit, aſked him as he went along, in what condition was Conſtantinople when he left it? It "is a town," added he, "where "my gallant aphoriſms got me a "good fortune." "You are then a "phyſician," ſaid the Genius? "I am "poſſeſſed of the rareſt and moſt uſeful "preparations," replied the Doctor, "I cure

" I cure ſadneſs, irkſomneſs, miſan-
" thropy, folly, and even fooliſhneſs.
" I can free a forehead from wrin-
" kles, and prevent a fine neck from
" ſhrinking. Let a complexion be
" ever ſo much wore out by repeated
" pleaſures, I can reſtore it to a
" bloomy freſhneſs. I not only mend,
" but I can beautify the uglieſt face:
" in ſhort, I am the doctor both of
" the mind and beauty." " If ſo,"
ſaid the Genius, " you don't want
" for employment." " I am not ſo
" much employed as you might
" think," replied the Doctor; "every
" one here thinks his mind in very
" good health; and, as to beauty, I
" took a wrong ſtep at firſt ſetting off.

" I begun

" I begun by publiſhing I had a no-
" ſtrum that radically expelled ugli-
" neſs. Not a woman thought her-
" ſelf in need of my compoſition. A
" rival of mine took a contrary way:
" he had engraved over his head,
" An infallible ſecret to preſerve beau-
" ty. All the women flocked to him
" from the young and bloomy Egle'
" to the very ugly Barſine and old
" Livia."

The gait and dreſs of Alaciel excited the curioſity of many a fair one: ſome aſked him, " Whether it was
" true, that in his country two hun-
" dred women had ſometimes but
" one huſband? Whether they were
" allowed

" allowed to admit no male viſiters ? " Whether the walls of the Seraglio " were ſo very inacceſſible ? Whe- " ther the eunuchs were never to be " bribed or deceived ? and, above all, " What reaſon they had to think, " that one man could be enough for " a whole Seraglio ? Whether the " prophet had maturely weighed the " matter ?" Others would have gone ſtill further in their curious enquiries. Alaciel anſwered to the firſt in the beſt manner he was able, and from the others he kept at a diſtance.

At laſt Alaciel cried out: " Fri- " volites, I come to learn of you thoſe

" fine things a Turk is born a ſtranger
" to." " Very well," replied a young ſpark, who, for a long time, had laughed at the Genius's figure: " Nobody ever pitched on ſuch or " ſuch ſpot of ground for his own " birth: and, I don't ſee why you " ſhould be to blame for being born " a Turk: I'll undertake to initiate " you; I am the very Mentor you " want; but, firſt ſhake off that " gravity which ſets us a laughing: off " that long garb you are wrapt in; " and off that turban which hides " you: put on a long-ſhaped but " ſhort coat, neat ruffles, and a bag " to your hair, *à la Mahone*. Learn, " as time ſerves, to be dirty in the

" morning,

" morning, and to wear clean linen
" in the evening: look ſtiff and tired
" after a good night's reſt; briſk and
" freſh when you are greatly fa-
" tigued; beware never to form too
" good an opinion of women; keep
" that good opinion for yourſelf, and
" let the ladies perceive it; that is
" the way to bring them under.
" Never fall in love with the ſex: an
" intimacy ought to be no more than
" a trial upon liking: the cuſtom
" with us is to come together without
" loving, to part without grief, and
" ſeldom either the man or woman
" remembers a month after parting,
" that they once were together."

"THAT is very much like the love "of Turkiſh lovers," ſaid Alaciel, "with that difference," replied the Frivolite, "that here the law is equal; "our women conſtrain themſelves "no more than men do. I'll intro- "duce you preſently to the toilet of "one of the right ſort. She will "contribute her ſhare to make you "ſuch as you muſt be, if you live "long amongſt us."

THEY went and met the fair Frivolite at her toilet, over which a young magiſtrate preſided, who knew better how to place a patch than how to apply a law. The Lady did not ſeem afraid, neither of the Genius's

long

long robe, nor of his turban; nay, ſhe civilly received him, and aſked him ſeveral queſtions; to which he anſwered with no leſs ſprightlineſs than wit. A lackey came to aſk whether the Lady was up? and being anſwered yes, he uſhered in a young and handſome gentleman, who having ſaluted all the company with a friendly and polite air, addreſſed himſelf to the Lady in a very gallant manner, telling her ſhe looked charmingly, and begged leave to wiſh her joy before-hand, for the many conqueſts he was ſure ſhe would make that day. The Lady was no way behind-hand in praiſing and careſſing him till he left us, and ran to

his Little Honey (thus he called a dancer whom he kept.) "He is a charming man," ſaid the Counteſs (that was the name the Lady went by,) "he is the beſt-tempered man in the "world. This new miſtreſs of his "inſpires him with ſuch gaiety, that "I am ſincerely glad of this new acquiſition of his. May I, without "being too bold, aſk the name of "the privileged mortal," ſaid Alaciel? "Ah, Sir," replied the Lady, "it is very eaſy to gueſs. We were "ſpeaking of my huſband." Then Alaciel's guide took him, and ſaid, "Well, Sir, how do you like the "Counteſs? She is far from being "ugly, and between you and me I

am

" am pretty deep in her favour. I
" ſnatched her out of an impertinent
" Marquis's hand, whoſe good ſenſe
" would infallibly have ſpoiled her."

THE better to know this new Mentor, Alaciel directed the fatal taliſman towards him. He did not reſiſt. Be-
" tween you and me," purſued he, againſt his inclination, " my nume-
" rous triumphs were always accom-
" panied with ſome diſgraces. Cer-
" tain women, whom, not being
" able to ſeduce, I had baſely ſlan-
" dered, rung the alarm-bell in all
" the companies I uſed to frequent;
" moſt of whom are ſo afraid of me
" now, that they will hardly bear

" my preſence. I make it up to my-
" ſelf by publiſhing, that they be-
" thought themſelves a little too
" late. I am ſtill admitted here,"
purſued he, " and am indebted for
" my admittance to the temper of the
" Counteſs, who thinks herſelf above
" any ſlander, and diverts herſelf
" with mine; for that is to this day
" the only amuſement I have pro-
" cured this Lady, notwithſtanding
" all my boaſting to the contrary."

THIS involuntary confeſſion touch-
ed our ſpark to the quick; but, to
make himſelf ſome amends, he left
the Genius, and went to ſome other
company,

company, to ſlander a Lady whom he knew only by name.

ALACIEL underſtood that this ſpark was a Petit-Maitre, a ſpecies of beings as much below any definition as they think themſelves above all decencies. "The madneſs of theſe "fellows, is ſtill more dangerous," ſaid Alaciel, "than crawling on "feet and hands, than ruining one-"ſelf in purchaſing maggots, or even "looking Death in the face for the "ſake of a lark. However, he thought it ſufficed to drown them amongſt the reſt.

THE

THE Genius had a mind to know the Counteſs: he put a few queſtions to her, making uſe of his ordinary precaution. She owned that ſhe was not in love; and, that her ſhewing ſo much gallantry, was only to make herſelf beloved: that ſhe preferred the loſs of her fortune, and even of her reputation before that of a Devoir; that ſhe granted nothing, although ſhe encouraged every one's hopes; that no-body ever went from her either diſpleaſed or ſatisfied.

IT pleaſed Alaciel, that ſhe did not carry her ambition too far: there are a great many fair-ones, ſaid he

he to himſelf, whoſe views are more intereſted, although few would be ſo ingenuous as this Lady in confeſſing it.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

THEY told him, that a Turk, to form his manner, ought to frequent the Beau-Monde, they introduced him into a place where a few ſquare bits of paſteboard, which the company threw to one another, ſo engroſſed their whole attention, that, altho' they were about twenty in number drawn in a circle round a table, not one of them perceived the

Genius's

Genius's coming in. This Belle Aſſemblée were very ſparing in their words, but very free with their gold, which made up for the want of diſcourſe amongſt all thoſe whom they called good company: he whom chance favoured, had often the ſatisfaction of making a beggar of his beſt friend. The Genius obſerved a man, who, taking no ſhare in the converſation, looked about without diſcerning any thing, and did all he could to appear like a ſot. Alaciel aſked who he was? "He is," replied they, "a Wit, a man of let-
"ters, the beſt of proſe-writers; a
"good poet, and a famous orator;
"yet

" yet he wants an eſſential talent; a
" talent, without which, all others
" are nothing: in ſhort, the talent
" of playing. It is only by a par-
" ticular toleration, that he is al-
" lowed to weary himſelf here now
" and then."

ALACIEL took particular notice of all the aſſembly's motions: he obſerved a young Frivolite melt into tenderneſs, in proportion as he who was her opponent, played unluckily, or ſeaſonably choſe to loſe. A young ſpark, leſs polite than the firſt, won very unmannerly the money of a Lady who was in love with him; but her

love

love grew cold, in proportion as her counters diminiſhed.

ANOTHER gameſter (ſhe was a regular beauty) frightened the Genius, by a ſad heavineſs that reigned all over her. She had not been to-bed for ſeventy-two hours, but had played and loſt without intermiſſion, to the greedineſs of a ſordid gain, ſhe ſacrificed not only the care of her beauty, but days and nights, which love and gallantry laid a ſtrong claim to: her eyes, which ought to be animated by pleaſure only, ſhewed fear and deſpair by turns.

ALACIEL

ALACIEL directed his taliſman towards one of the moſt deſperate gameſters: he owned that he had more than once truſted his whole fortune to the turning of a card, or the caſting of a dice; "but," added he, "I am lucky at play: I won "laſt night, the houſe, equipage, "and even the very miſtreſs of a "friend of mine. A gameſter, whom "I ruined ſome time ago, came again "to me the other day; and I won "all he is to have at his father's "death. Laſt week I won a pretty "large portion, a tender father had "deſigned for a darling daughter. "Now I am buſy in reducing the

"ſon

" ſon of a farmer-general to the ſame
" condition with his anceſtors."

BEING more perſuaded than ever that the end of the Frivolites drew near, the Genius was going to leave the aſſembly, when a fine and blooming gameſter invited him to make one of them. Alaciel begged to be excuſed, as he knew not the rules of the game. " You want no rules," replied the lovely fair (whom the taliſman forced to be ſincere) " rules
" are uſeleſs to you. Know to loſe;
" that is, all a ſtranger has to learn,
" if he has a mind to be eſteemed."
This part of a ſtranger's duty Alaciel acted very well.

THE gaming-tables yielded the room to an elegant and dainty ſupper. All thoſe of thirty years old, and upwards, eat much, and got drunk: thoſe under thirty, drank water, and eat little. The Ladies wait with impatience for the deſert, and the Champagne, which being ſerved up, the univerſal gaiety redoubled. Now wit and vivacity kept up the converſation: the Ladies laughed at every thing, and were offended at nothing; even ſhe who had played ſo unluckily, reſumed her ordinary good-humour, as being pleaſed with the thought of having yet left a pretty good farm to be ventured at the next ſitting. In ſhort, they all parted pleaſed

pleaſed with one another, and much more ſo with themſelves. Alaciel himſelf was ſomewhat ſoothed: nevertheleſs, he did not open the red tablet deſigned for the wiſe.

By this time it grew pretty late. Alaciel was going home, when he ſaw, all of a ſudden, the Frivolites in great motion. They had all chang'd their forms, and were poſting towards a certain place, where every one's pleaſure conſiſted in appearing what they were not. The Genius got in amongſt the crowd, with an intent to take a particular ſurvey of the ſeveral members of the aſſembly. Cloſe by him, he ſaw two maſks,

who ſeemed much pleaſed with themſelves: one of them was a Petit-Maitre of the city, who gave himſelf the airs of a Marquis: the other, a tradeſman's daughter, lately married to a merchant; and, you would have have taken her for a Marchioneſs at leaſt. Alaciel directed the taliſman towards them both. They told aloud what they were, and ended by betaking themſelves to their heels.

A MASK (in a domino) played the dying lover at the feet of a young Spaniard, whoſe noble ſhape had raviſhed him. The Genius turned his taliſman towards them. "I am the "Mar-

" Marquis of D-----," ſaid the Maſk in a Camail. " I am the Marchioneſs of D-----," ſaid the fine-ſhaped Spaniard. " What! my " wife?" replied he, and immediately made off. A Turk purſued cloſely a Circaſſian Lady, whom a Tartar was gazing on; the taliſman being directed towards them: " Dear Hor- " tenſe," ſaid the Circaſſian to the Turk, " now is the time to revenge " yourſelf for the infidelities of Da- " mis" --- " Very good," ſaid the Tartar within himſelf, " the Circaſ- " ſian fair means my wife; I'll have " no more to ſay to her in this place. He immediately made up to a young veſtal, who ſeemed to have no inclination to ſhun him. The Genius

would have her ſpeak with the ſame openeſs the others had done. "I "am," ſaid ſhe to the Tartar, "a "dancer of the opera: I'll love you "as conſtantly as I have loved a "thouſand others before you; but I "ſet a pretty high price upon my "love. It has already exhauſted the "generoſity, and even the utmoſt "ability of ſundry men of the firſt "diſtinction; it has ruined ſome "Financiers, who were ſuch fools "as to pretend to carrying it over "their Lordſhips. As to my ſmall "favours, they have ſwallowed all "the guineas of ten Taciturnian "Lords, and trebled the debts of "twenty Frivolite Marquiſſes."

THESE four people parted very little pleaſed with one another.

NOW Alaciel was attacked by a harlequin fair one, extremely witty: having a mind to know her thoroughly, he experienced her with his uſual precaution. "I come hither," replied ſhe, "to make amends for "the gravity I am, for decency ſake, "obliged to keep elſewhere." "Why "ſhould you thus continually con-"ſtrain yourſelf?" urged the Genius; at the ſame time he touched her with the taliſman; for, he perceived that its ordinary influence was not ſufficient here. "I am," purſued ſhe, "what the coquette calls a prude,

" and what ſhe ſhould rather call a " prudent woman. I keep a real ſu- " periority over my ſex: I loudly " condemn its foibles, whilſt I con- " ceal my own from the world: all my " pleaſures are the more refined for " being more ſecret. I always chuſe " for confidents, people whoſe in- " tereſt it is to be diſcreet." She had hardly ſpoke, but ſhe went away confuſed, and ſorry for having ſaid thus much. Alaciel made many more diſcoveries of the ſame nature. Here he ſaw wronged huſbands, who only made a jeſt of it; there intrigues dropt almoſt as ſoon as begun; every where mirth, pleaſure, and apparent ſatisfaction. The Genius went off, at laſt,

laſt, to ſeek for intereſting adventures of ſome other kind.

He had not gone far, when he heard a great noiſe; the houſe it came from had but an indifferent appearance: the Genius went in, and ſaw an old man agitated with furious convulſions. A veſſel, turned upſide down on a hot furnace, was, it ſeemed, the motive of his fits. Alaciel turned the taliſman towards the raving old man, who, at the ſame inſtant, cried out: "This is then the "produce of fifty whole years toils, "and an hundred thouſand piſtoles. "---The deciſive moment was at "hand.---Mercurius was becoming

"Sol.

" Sol. ---My glory and my treaſures
" were juſt going to make me equal
" to the wiſe and opulent Solomon.
" --- Curſed beaſt," purſued he, directing his angry ſpeech to a cat, who ſlily ſeemed to ſhun him, " it is
" you are the cauſe of my ruin, and
" the ſhame that ſhall fall on the
" great Hermes."

BEING preſſed anew by the taliſman, he added, " Happy ſhould I
" yet be, were I but to ſurvive my
" children, richly ſettled, that I
" might melt their fortunes in my
" crucible --- Happy Mogul! was I
" in thy place, I would melt down all
" thy

" thy immenſe treaſures to find out
" the ſecret of making gold."

ALACIEL ſlipt into a neighbouring houſe, where every thing, even the very furniture, beſpoke voluptuous leachery: two women, cut out as it were to kindle it, were here quarrelling like two furies, and ſtriving to pluck one another's eyes out: A man, half naked, did all he could to part them; but, in ſpite of his endeavours, they came to hard blows: then he gave over his good offices, put on his clothes quickly, took with a free and eaſy air a purſe of gold that lay upon the table, and made off: his exit, or rather that of the purſe,

put

put an end to the ſcuffling of the two rivals.

ALACIEL had no need of his talisman to gueſs the motive of their diſpute: he eaſily found out, that the two Amazons were goddeſſes at certain hours of the day; but who did not think it below their deity to communicate at night with mortal men. One of theſe goddeſſes had heard the vows, and accepted the offerings of a foreign worſhipper: but, to ſatisfy this new comer, ſhe muſt lull an old tributary of hers. All this ſeemed eaſy, and the goddeſs had ſoon contrived how to

to bring it about. She deputed her ſiſter goddeſs to keep company to the ſtranger whilſt ſhe ſhould be abſent; without, however, preſuming to fill up the vacancy: the ſiſter goddeſs had gone beyond her commiſſion, and had accepted of the very offering which had been deſigned for another altar: the wronged goddeſs came a little too late: ſhe claimed the offering, and ſwore to revenge the honour of her altar. The ungrateful mortal, whoſe vows had, in part, been heard and granted, making uſe of the opportunity of the ſcuffle, took back his offering, and got off.

AURORA began now to announce the approaching day; therefore the Genius thought fit to ſuſpend any further ſearches. He even perceived it was high time to ſhake off his Ottoman figure; becauſe, by this time it was the general talk, that a certain Turk, lately come over, forced people to tell their thoughts. "Make "haſte to burn him alive," ſaid a fair devotee, in a trance of fervent charity. "He is a public plague," cried the flatterer of a man rich in gold, but poor in virtue; "What ſhould "become of the World, if we muſt "always be ſincere?" Every one avoided the Genius's queſtions, and ſhunned his preſence: therefore he was obliged to change his form.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

HE put on the figure, and took the name of a Taciturnian Lord, who was famous for his wit: he expected to be ill received; but, how great was his ſurprize to ſee ſome hundreds of Frivolites ſurround him, and pay him great veneration. "Gentlemen," cried Alaciel, "you "are miſtaken; I am a Tacitur- "nian. We know very well who "you are," replied the chiefs among them,

them, " and for that very reaſon it is " we thus pay our reſpects to your " Lordſhip: it is in your Lordſhip's " country that true wiſdom and true " philoſophy reſide. There is no " prejudice againſt ſages who dare to " think; no Baſtile to lock them up " who dare to write. Your forefa- " thers had not ſo much merit as their " children, yet they had a genius. " Our anceſtors had only wit, yet " they had more merit than their " children. We are ſlaves accuſ- " tomed to reverence our fetters: we " cringe inſtead of walking; and, " without your aſſiſtance, we cannot " ſupport ourſelves. Why has the " ſea put us aſunder? Why are not

" our

" our ſoldiers as tractable and ſheep-
" iſh as we are? Were they of our
" way of thinking, we ſhould ſoon be
" as much your humble ſubjects as
" we are already your moſt humble
" diſciples."

THE Genius thought this declaration ſomewhat too modeſt: he however congratulated the Frivolites upon their ſurmounting of national hatred, prejudices of country, and ---
" Prejudices of countries?" reſumed they with vivacity, " that is a ſtale
" word, fit only for ignorant and fa-
" natic republicans. As for us, we
" are philoſophers and, as ſuch, citi-
" zens of the world. We care not

" who governs, provided we are al-
" lowed to reform. All we desire,
" is the liberty of the press, that we
" may be read and admired, even by
" them who don't understand us."

At these last words, Alaciel began to call in question both the modesty and wisdom of the Frivolite philosophers.

A man, who marched at the head of a great number of sailors, pioniers, engineers, and other workmen of every kind you could name, saluted Alaciel as he went by. The Genius made bold to ask him, What use he designed

deſigned all theſe hands for? "I "am," replied he, "a philoſopher, "who, for ſome time paſt, have en- "joyed but an indifferent ſtate of "health; therefore, to divert my "lingering, and employ my leiſure "hours, I go to pull down the py- "ramids of Egypt. I dreamt that a "deal of fine and marvellous ſecrets "were incloſed therein, and the "world ſhall ſoon ſee, that this new "diſcovery was alſo reſerved for me. "That is not all," purſued he; "for "I intend to ſet ſail from thence for "Terra Auſtralis; where I am told "I ſhall meet with Patagons ---- "Wondrous creatures! Men with "long tails behind. I long to ſee

" theſe men, and, I prefer their con-
" verſation, before that of the greateſt
" wit in Europe. --- This is not yet
" all," added the philoſopher: "Sup-
" poſe the Patagons once civilized
" and poliſhed by my care, I'll im-
" mediately employ them in digging
" the earth to its very kernel; an en-
" terprize that would require the
" unanimous concurrence of a whole
" nation. I am the firſt philoſopher
" who ever imagined the practicabi-
" lity of ſuch a work; and not one
" of the ſovereigns I propoſed it to,
" durſt as yet undertake it."

ALACIEL wiſhed him a good voy-
age, and a quick return of health,
which

which he hoped might be the means of preſerving the pyramids: he could not help thinking, this kind of philoſophy ſomewhat like that of the Taciturnians: therefore he concluded, that the two rival nations reſembled one another much more than they were aware of.

Now Alaciel ſeemed inclinable to make a longer ſtay amongſt the Frivolites: he took lodging in a very ſpacious hotel, where very ſmall apartments were let out for very large ſums of money. As they raiſed his rent, ſo in proportion they doubled their civility to him; he alſo hired a great number of ſervants, not ſo much

to do his own buſineſs, as for the ſake of being let into the ſecret circumſtances of the affairs of his neighbours. His expectation in the laſt point was fully anſwered. The knaves outvied one another in tearing to pieces the maſters and miſtreſſes who had been good, or fooliſh enough to harbour them.

"THIS again," ſaid Alaciel, "is "juſt the ſame as in Taciturna."

THEY brought him up the name of a perſon he knew nothing of. It was a compound of half Bramine and half layman, or rather, was neither the one nor the other. The amphibious

bious being ſeemed as complaiſant towards others, as he was well pleaſed with himſelf. He propoſed to teach the Genius both the language and cuſtoms of the country; to let him into the moſt ſecret and ſcandalous anecdotes; to bring him acquainted with the moſt celebrated men and gallanteſt women; and to introduce him into the moſt frequented circles and toilets: "I have, purſued he, "ſome other qualifications: "for inſtance: I know how to pre- "vent the cabals of ſervants, the "roguery of ſtewards, and the extra- "vagant cravings of a miſtreſs. I "have made a thorough œconomiſt

" of a dancer, whom a financier of " my acquaintance had in keeping.

ALACIEL aſked him " How many ſuch beings as himſelf he thought there were on the iſland?" " About " twenty thouſand," replied Amphibius. The Genius turned him out, took the green tablet, and wrote, " Item, Twenty thouſand more quite " fit for drowning."

Now came in a man who gave himſelf out for a phyſician. He alighted from a ſpruce equipage, which kept turning in the yard twenty minutes at leaſt after that the owner had alighted. This Doctor propoſed

propoſed the Genius to reſtore him to perfect health, in caſe he was ſick; or to keep him in health, in caſe he was well. Alaciel objected their having made of the phyſical art ſomething more frightful than ſickneſs itſelf. "So it is in your "country," anſwered the Doctor, deceived by the outward figure of the Genius; "but here we have ſim-"plified the very art. Your doc-"tors preſcribe in a barbarous jar-"gon; but here we uſe polite and "elegant language: for inſtance; I "come to a houſe; I paſs my hand "under the chin of the waiting-wo-"man, who is in good health; I feel "the pulſe of the Lady who is out "of order; I preſcribe and away: I

"have

" have ſeen thirty patients this very " morning," purſued he, " and as " many again I have to ſee before I " retire."

FROM thence the Doctor took an opportunity to boaſt of his horſes, coachman, Berlin, Vis-a-vis, and even his Cabriolet. He ended ſaying, That " the ſkill of a phyſician, " who kept ſix horſes in his ſtables, " and four carriages in his coach- " houſe, was never or ſeldom called " in queſtion."

ALACIEL took theſe two laſt perſonages to be two originals, of which he

he did not then recollect to have ſeen any copies in Taciturna.

ANOTHER carriage brought up a third original: Alaciel aſked "Whe-
"ther he was a phyſician alſo?"
"Heaven forbid!" replied the vi-
ſiter, "I give myſelf for ſomething
"more valuable; their ſcience is
"only arbitrary, whilſt my art is
"certain. There are, in this city,
"two hundred eunuchs, at leaſt, of
"my making, who, had they truſted
"their welfare to phyſic, muſt have
"periſhed long ago. I am famous
"for cutting the foul branches to
"ſave the trunk, and keep it ſound.
"For inſtance; if a cancer begins to
"feed

" feed on a fine neck, I immediately " chop off at once both the breaſt and " the cancer." ---- " Ah, cruel!" cried the Genius --- " Above all," purſued the butcher, " I have few, " if any equals in the art of chop- " ping arms, legs, thighs, &c." " Much better would it be," replied the Genius, " had you the art of " curing ſometimes without ſuch " choppings."

ALACIEL made no doubt, but this man might have cut a great figure at Taciturna.

THE Genius was told, that nothing was ſo common amongſt the Frivolites

Frivolites as books and authors. "So "it is at Taciturna," replied he.

ONE of theſe people, who myſteriouſly ſell works, which very often contain but few or no myſteries, brought the Genius a parcel of ſamples to chuſe. He ran them over, and was ſurpriſed to find nothing but tablets and almanacks, which in this country are the protocol of the readers, and the ſhift of the authors: poetry, proſe, moral, hiſtory; all is almanack; all goes down under the ſhadow of a kalendar.

THERE were alſo ſome pamphlets, whoſe authors aimed at ſaying

ing nothing; but ſaid their nothings with very ill grace. Romances he ſaw, that were intended for amuſement; but, they performed very ill that which they were deſigned for. He alſo ſaw lampoons, which were unnoticed even by thoſe at whom they were darted.

ALACIEL aſked if the Frivolite writers did never venture beyond that narrow compaſs? They ſoon convinced him to the contrary, by the arrival of a waggon loaded with ſeveral hundred books in folio. Theſe were huge commentaries, which ſerved to darken ſome very clear paſſages that were underſtood only by the

the illiterate: thoſe large volumes of juriſprudence, that taught the art of eternizing law-ſuits: theſe other learned reſearches that demonſtrated every thing, except that which the author aimed at: thoſe there, were the productions of a certain ſociety, with the monſtrous volumes of whom the public is daily plagued.

THE Genius compared theſe writers with the inhabitants of ancient Egypt, who knowing not the due proportion of architecture ſtrove to make themſelves famous by monuments of a prodigious height.

ALACIEL

ALACIEL paid a viſit to one of theſe indefatigable Literati, who had had the misfortune, before he was forty years of age, of bringing forth fifty huge volumes. His preſent occupation then on the anvil, was a treatiſe wherein he aimed at proving, that Silenus's aſs, and that of Balaam, deſcended from one and the ſame father aſs. He had demonſtrated before, that the aſs, whoſe jaw-bone did ſuch wonders in the hand of Samſon, deſcended in a direct line from the very aſs whoſe jaw-bone was the inſtrument of Abel's death. This done, the learned author's ſcope was the writing a general hiſtory of the aſs, from the origin of things, down

down to the preſent time, a work that he intended to enrich with curious and intereſting quotations.

THE Genius did not think it reaſonable to interrupt, by a longer ſtay, ſo uſeful a performance; therefore he left the hiſtorian to his work, and went to ſee a poet, whom he knew by name: he was remarkable for wearing awry his back, mouth, eyes, and peruke. The Genius aſked him ſome queſtions concerning his buſineſs. "I compoſe works," replied he, forced by the taliſman, "which "to me appear always excellent. I "revile thoſe who are ſaid to write "better, and praiſe them who write

"worſe,

" worſe, than myſelf. I indiſcrimi-
" nately ſing the Laïs and the Lu-
" cretia, and delight in covering with
" a calot, heads already crowned with
" laurel. Theſe here, are verſes
" againſt the Eſchilus of our time;
" that there, is a libel againſt one
" whom they pretend to call our
" Homer."

ALACIEL, without ſo much as caſting his eye on theſe maſter-pieces, aſked the poet a few queſtions concerning his brother writers. " All " thoſe who deſerve that name," replied he, " do as I do." That diſcourſe made the Genius drop the deſign he had formed of ſeverally paying

ing them a viſit; nay, he took a reſolution to annihilate them all one day.

THEN he went to a certain place, famous for its good liquors and bad talk: there he ſaw many an old man liſten with great attention to young ſparks, who ſpoke, contradicted, and judged of every thing: if any one of the old men had forgot themſelves ſo far, as to propoſe their humble opinion upon any matter, their impertinence was always ſure of being ſuddenly ſilenced by the promiſing youths. In the ſame room, a little further, towards the upper end, ſat an ex-bonze, a great zealot for the

good cauſe, who, not being able to draw from his own arguments, any inference in favour of his opinion, broke out all of a ſudden in bitter abuſes, for want of good reaſons. Further ſtill, in the ſame room, a Noveliſt, diſpleaſed with himſelf for having told no lye ſince his digeſtion, was writing a letter to himſelf, in which he unthroned the prieſt John. By this time, Alaciel was accoſted by a young man, whom the Genius deſired to take notice of the Noveliſt. The ſpark did not ſeem ſurpriſed at all. "Know," ſaid he to Alaciel, " that " a Noveliſt, who ſets up for a man " of correſpondence, ſhould foreſee " events, rather than to expoſe him-

" ſelf

" ſelf to the ſhame of not receiving
" the firſt news; but, be all that as
" it may, any thing this man pub-
" liſhes, is by far preferable to the
" principles of that cold metaphy-
" ſician, who, in yonder circle of
" his followers, argues as he com-
" bines, and ſpeaks as he writes."

He who ſpoke thus, was an author himſelf; but had the cunning and good-luck to find always a father for his works. Alaciel went off, fully perſuaded, that to look for a ſage in ſuch an aſſembly, was to loſe time to no purpoſe; and, he was more and more convinced, that the vices of the two rival nations were

ſtill the ſame, although differently conſpicuous.

He ſtopt to hear two men, who diſputed with no leſs wit than heat: "Judge between us," ſaid one of them to the Genius, "you may com-"petently pronounce on the matter. "I propoſe the truſting our nobility "with the ſupplying China, Japan, "both the Indies, &c. with our "toys and iron ware:" "And I," replied the other, "would have them "employed only in beating their vaſ-"ſals in time of peace, and fighting "the enemy in time of war."

A FOURTH

A FOURTH perſon came up, who was of the military order: this boaſted of his good fortune, curſed the Jews, and merrily diſpoſed himſelf to ſet out the following evening on a moſt dangerous expedition. He judged between the two diſputants, and caſt him who ſpoke againſt war. "War for ever," purſued he, in a merry tone: "war has coſt me al-"ready the beſt two thirds of my "fortune; what remains, will poſ-"ſibly be ſufficient for this next "campaign." Alaciel aſked him, "If there was an indiſpenſible ne-"ceſſity of ruining one's ſelf in the "ſervice of the ſtate?" "What "would you have us to do?" replied

the officer; "Would you have us "make war as Tartars? Are there "not always ſome ſupernumerary "expences? For inſtance: I juſt "bought ſome mules, which, in- "deed, I don't intend to pay for; "but I am to ſup this very night "with a dancer, whom I muſt not "cheat of her due. She waits for "my coming alone, and from her "arms I'll fly into thoſe of glory." --- Then he went off ſinging:

"Sandariqua! this day is a great "day for thee!"

'As to this character," cried the Genius; "this is indeed an original "one

" one, and intirely Frivolite; but " not a bit the wiſer for that."

THE liſt Alaciel had in view, was not yet begun: he met with neither better ſucceſs nor more ſatisfaction among the different ranks of people. Here were lawyers, whoſe knowledge went no farther than the art of unfolding intricate affairs, and embroiling thoſe that were clear ones: there philoſophers, who every morning created ſome new world; literati, who deſpiſed poets; poets, who ſtrove to pleaſe all, and valued themſelves only; warriors, who compared themſelves to none, and bonzes, who preferred themſelves to all.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

ALACIEL thought that the end of his ſearches, and that of the Frivolites, were at hand. However, he ſurveyed the metropolis he was going to deſtroy: it ſeemed a compound of ſurpriſing magnificence, and wonderful irregularity: every thing beſpoke an ingenious, but heedleſs people: here were ſeen ſumptuous monuments under decayed rubbiſh: temples, that were elegant

elegant only; others, that were only ruſtic; public ſquares without extent; public fountains without any outſide appearance, and without water. --- On the other ſide, he admired thoſe ſurpriſing monuments he could hardly ſee; majeſtic palaces; ſtately houſes; immenſe libraries; eſtabliſhments, no leſs magnificent than uſeful. Alaciel pauſed thoughtful, and found himſelf very unwilling to deſtroy all theſe things; therefore he reſolved to go a little way out of town for a few days. An agreeable valley led him into a retreat ſtill more agreeable: here Art ſeemed to have perfected, and not to have hid Nature. This abode was inhabited

inhabited by a man of ripe years and riper underſtanding, who having bore the fatigues of war, and trod over the court intrigues, thought now as a ſage, and lived as a fellow citizen. He welcomed the Genius with a frankneſs, which was polite and eaſy. Alaciel obſerved him, and found he had met with a philoſopher, but a philoſopher who was a ſage.

ARISTES (that was the ſage's name) was once ſubject to ſome foibles; but, he had now triumphed over them all; he was once in love; but his miſtreſs proved falſe. Now he was intirely free from that paſſion; yet he bore with others who were

were in love. He had been an ambitious man, and had been often diſappointed. Now he had intirely left off forming projects, yet did not find fault with projectors: his philoſophy was no leſs indulgent than his manners were gentle: his converſation was agreeable; his advice always ſound and uſeful: no body was ever diſpleaſed at finding Ariſtes in the right.

WITHOUT letting him into the motive of his ſearches, Alaciel acquainted him with the reſult thereof. Ariſtes did not ſeem to wonder at it; however, he deſired the Genius to ſuſpend his judgment. "Perhaps," ſaid

ſaid he to the Genius, "My nation "has more vices to ſhake off than "virtues to acquire. She has, per- "haps, fewer laws to eſtabliſh than "abuſes to ſuppreſs; being the mo- "del of all her neighbours, who hate "her; ſhe hates none; ſhe does not "even know how to hate: levity "preſides over all her actions; levity "is the ſource of her virtue and "vices; of her pleaſures and labours: "the ſame cauſe made her both to "move the pantin, and to meaſure "the heavens."

ALACIEL reſolved on new diſco- veries; and, at firſt ſetting off, A- riſtes ſhewed him a ſpectacle, rare

in

in that iſland as well as in other countries: A married couple, who, notwithſtanding theindiſſoluble knot, loved one another with as much rapture as if they had never come to enjoyment.

DAMON (that is the name of the huſband) had that vivacity of paſſion which is almoſt inſeparable from great talents. He was young and rich; ſaw Conſtantia and was ſmitten with her whole perſon: perhaps, at firſt, he thought only of ſeducing, but he ſoon learned to reſpect her: he ſaw, that a virtuous woman is proof againſt times and places; to be united to her he muſt get over a common

common prejudice, viz. the wrath of his family, and all the dreadful conſequences thereof. Damon eſpouſed Conſtantia, and by ſo doing, loſt his whole fortune. --- Guilty in the eye of the law, his judges were, altho' unwillingly, obliged to find him ſo. That was not all: Damon was born to greater misfortunes: his very eloquence was forced to be mute; he was forbad the very uſe of his great talents; nothing was capable of ſhaking his perſeverance: ſtript of every thing, he loved Conſtantia as if he had ſacrificed nothing for her. Conſtantia's only grief was at not having ſacrificed more for him.

THIS inſtance ſtruck the Genius, and ſoothed him in favour of one married man of that country: but he would neither forgive nor forget the fantaſtical pride of its Philoſophers.

ARISTES took him to a Lady, who daily made Uranias's compaſs ſucceed to the bodkin of her toilet: ſhe was in the midſt of a crowd of Literati, whoſe aſpect was far from being either ſower or rugged. In ſhort, this aſſembly of her's formed one of the moſt agreeable circles; they ſpoke of every thing; of Newton and of la Du Chap *; of new ſyſtems, and

* A famous coifeuſe, otherwiſe milliner, at Jocunda.

of new faſhions: they were not above doubting of a great many things, and they affirmed nothing but what they were pretty well convinced of. One of the Literati placed with elegancy a patch on the lady's forehead: the lady, while her head was a dreſſing, demonſtrated a paralogiſm in the famous M. ---- 's Diſſertation on the ſtanding and moving power.

ALACIEL was mightily pleaſed to ſee learning in ſo good a correſpondence, with ſweetneſs and urbanity, and the liſt formed itſelf imperceptibly.

THE

The Genius and his guide paſſed by a narrow lane and a ſmall building, into which a vaſt number of carriages and people on foot hurried themſelves: the foot mixed amongſt the horſe with an intrepidity worthy of obſervation and cenſure. Ariſtes acquainted the Genius that in the ſmall building was contained a large ſpectacle: they both went in: the aſſembly was brilliant and numerous. Some women, endowed with a ſufficient ſhare of agreeableneſs, to make ſhift without beauty, made the principal ornament of the place: every one of them caſt a critical look on her female neighbour; but a yielding and com-

plaiſant ogle on the men that ogled moſt indecently. Theſe he-oglers, fonder of ſhewing themſelves to public view, than attentive to the ſpectacle, kept cloſe to the actors, and made either Achilles or Brutus to appear in a circle of Frivolite Petit-Maitres.

ALACIEL obſerved others of the company taken up with different objects. Some thought of applauding, others of hiſſing the play: for the ill or good ſucceſs of thoſe ſort of works depend, in that country, neither on their being ill or well wrote, nor on their being injudiciouſly performed. Sentiment judges ſeldom, cabal

cabal decides generally. A dramatic poet, clogged by the embarraſſments of the rules, and difficulties of the art; by the ſubjects being exhauſted, and no new ideas to be found: I ſay, a poet, having got over all theſe difficulties, has yet done nothing for his own glory, if he has neither the good-luck to make ſure, nor the credit to bribe before-hand, a ſufficient number of ſuffrages. How many great talents are ſtifled in their very birth, by fooliſhly thinking that merit alone ſuffices to itſelf!

ALACIEL perceived, that the aſſembly ſtood in great need of all his clemency; but it was quite other-

wiſe with reſpect to the play. With a few incorrectneſſes, always inſeparable from the beſt performances, it had many beauties not always to be found in the moſt excellent works. Alaciel looked all round for the poet ſo deſervedly applauded by the audience. "You loſe your time," ſaid Ariſtes to the Genius, "if you look "for the author here. That famous man lives at a great diſtance "from his native country in a retreat, which our poſterity ſhall viſit "with reverence. Inimitable in his "proſe, often ſublime, and always "elegant and harmonious in his poetry; even his very incorrectneſſes "(and who is the mortal free from "all

" all faults?) have an eclat that cap-
" tivates and charms: being the pre-
" dilected and darling child of Na-
" ture, ſhe put before him all the ta-
" lents that he might chuſe: he
" might have choſen, but he em-
" braced them all. He excels in
" many; has but few rivals in others,
" and maſters in none.".

" Do you ſee," purſued Ariſtes,
" that yonder old man, whoſe face
" ſpeaks ſtill the man of vigour?
" They ſurround him with a venera-
" tion mixed with joy. A genius
" truly tragical! He often ſeemed to
" prefer terror before pity: he is
" a tyrant that captivates, us by

" offering to our eyes horror and
" ſlaughter.

" That other, whom a prince
" brought into the career, (he might
" well have ventured in without any
" introducer) has, as it were, opened
" a new road, by only following the
" beaten ones; that is, he has forced
" us to admire the ancients, who
" were too much neglected amongſt
" us. Happy genius! eaſy! modeſt!
" in ſhort, worthy a protector, no
" leſs diſcerning than munificent.

" JUST by him you ſee the au-
" thor of drolleries, the moſt charm-
" ing that ever enriched our lan-
" guage;

" guage; he alſo wrote other pro-
" ductions, whoſe philoſophy ſhines
" forth through roſes and flowers:
" but, ſatisfied with the glory of be-
" ing crowned on the comical ſcene,
" he ſtopt in the midſt of his career,
" and ſeems inclined to ſacrifice no
" longer but to idleneſs, whom he
" ſung but too much through all his
" works.

" I MIGHT," added the Frivolite ſage, " tell you of that other man, ſo
" famous for his agreeable ſallies and
" vivacity. Melpomene and Thalio
" crowned him by turns: that other
" yonder, who, both in his dramas
" and romances, ſpeaks equally to

" the

" the heart and mind. In ſhort, I
" might tell you of many other wor-
" thies deſervedly known to the
" learned world.

" We have been told for theſe
" many years (and too many mouths
" repeat the ſaying) that this century
" degenerates, falls, is almoſt ſunk.
" This is a point which undoubtedly
" requires a further examination."

Aristes had not done ſpeaking, when the ſcene changed. " Now " you ſhall judge," ſaid he to the Genius, " of a new kind of drama, " brought on the ſtage by one of our " contemporaries, whom our chil- " dren ſhall hardly be able to imi- " tate.

" tate. You ſhall now ſee the pencil " of Albane ſucceed to that of " Raphael."

As Alaciel redoubled his attention, ſo did his pleaſure redouble: never a more ſimple action produced an admiration more intereſting --- never heart ſpoke better its own language; each ſcene was a new and varied picture: each expreſſion a ſentiment.

The Genius got amongſt the authors, and perceived ſoon that their talents were accompanied with ſome foibles. Few loved ſucceſs in their rivals, but fewer or none oppoſed it.

Alaciel

Alaciel was pleaſed at ſeeing they carried their foibles no farther.

He went to other ſpectacles, and ſaw one quite marvellous: here, on a ſtage of twenty foot ſquare, appeared by turns, foreſts, deſarts, rivers, mountains, ſeas, the earth, hell, and heavens: here they danced but little, and tumbled much. Here every thing was ſung, from the very "I "love," to the very "I hate," even to the very "I die."

It is not an eaſy taſk to pleaſe every body, much leſs to pleaſe a Genius. Alaciel thought this ſpectacle fantaſtical: they acted the work of

of a great maſter. The Genius heard the recitatives, applauded the ariettes, and admired the ſymphonies. He obſerved, that the Frivolites could ſing in their own tongue; that they had muſic of their own, and that it "was never the worſe for "them."

However he could not forget the almanacks, and much leſs the folios. Ariſtes ſhewed him ſome ſmall volumes, which ſoothed him a little. Theſe were maſter-pieces of eloquence and poetry: hiſtories written by philoſophers; ſhort treatiſes, profound and clear on abſtruſe and difficult ſubjects; romances that were

not

not inſipid; morals without pedantry, and politicks, without either artifice or cruelty. But what ſtruck the Genius moſt, was to ſee ſeveral folios, whoſe uſefulneſs was ſtill greater than their bulk.

He alſo heard, that all the military men did not make the ſole buſineſs of ruining themſelves and fighting. Several of them ſtudied with ſucceſs the art of obeying, and that of commanding. He ſaw one who, having overcome both his own enemies, and thoſe of the ſtate, knew to be a philoſopher during a peace, which had put a ſtop to his victories.

ANOTHER perſonage he ſaw, who, although he had nothing left to hope for himſelf (his own merit had raiſed him to the ſeveral honours that can flatter the ambition of a warrior) or his family (they had all glorioufly dropt in defending and revenging their country) keep yet in the ſervice, as if he had his own fortune to make or his children to raiſe in the world. Alaciel hoped at laſt that ſome few Frivolites might eſcape the general drowning.

ARISTES took him to a certain place which we may call the Incomparable, as it can be compared to no other. There every one was uneaſy and

and ſeemed pleaſed; kept their own thoughts to themſelves, and ſpoke what they did not think: they publicly and loudly offered their ſervices and friendſhip to thoſe whoſe undoing they had ſworn within themſelves: there every man, and almoſt every woman, ſtrove for a kind look from the maſter; a courtier whom the Sovereign vouchſafes to aſk the moſt trifling queſtion of, ſees himſelf in a minute both envied and complimented by all thoſe about him; a woman whom the Monarch fixes his eye on, is immediately looked on with an evil eye by all the others, and ſhe looks on others with contempt.

HERE ſad ideas begun again to prey on Alaciel's mind. This abode offered to his eyes new foibles and new vices: however, he ſoon perceived virtues that were not to be met with elſewhere. Piety, frankneſs, humanity, in a rank that approaches the gods. A prince friend to truth in the midſt of a court of flatterers. "He can do what he "will," ſaid Ariſtes to the Genius; "but he will not do all he can. His "goodneſs very often moderates his "power: ſucceſsful in war, he loves "peace: never a monarch delighted "ſo much in true glory, or was leſs "fond of praiſes. He poſſeſſes all "the virtues of his predeceſſor, but

" tends to immortality through a
" different road. It ſhall be ſaid of
" the one, he was the terror of his
" neighbours; and, of the other, he
" was by turns their conqueror, their
" umpire, and their protector: the
" one had a natural propenſity for
" ſhew and magnificence; the other,
" a natural bent for tenderneſs and
" generoſity: the one put an air of
" grandeur on the ſmalleſt trifles;
" the other, a noble ſimplicity on the
" greateſt things."

At this very inſtant, the monarch was giving orders for building ſeveral temples and ſtately palaces: he encouraged the artiſts by his rewards

wards and praiſes. He tendered a helping hand to a crowd of young nobles of decayed fortune: ſupported princes when under oppreſſion, and thought all the while he was doing but ordinary things.

Now Alaciel's wrath was over. He promiſed to ſpare the ſubjects, in conſideration of the monarch, and moreover, to reform all thoſe whom in the beginning he had reſolved to deſtroy.

CHAP. VII.

THE Genius accompanied Ariſtes into his retirement, and vouchſafed to diſſemble no longer with him. "I am not," ſaid he to Ariſtes, "what I appear to your "eyes. I inhabit a region, which "you ſhall never view but in idea. "My being bears no relation to "your's, no more than the air does "to the earth."

AT the ſame time he let Ariſtes into the motives of his ſearches amongſt the two rival nations, and acquaint-

acquainting him what fate was like to befall them, the Genius pulled off his Taciturnian figure, and behold Ariſtes was ſtruck with ſomething ſupernatural; the brightneſs of which his eyes were not able to withſtand: he fell proſtrate on the ground: but Alaciel bid him reſume his uſual freedom. The Frivolite Sage ſeized this favourable opportunity to intercede for the Taciturnians.

"No;" replied the Genius, "never a people was ſo fooliſh, nor "folly was ſo ſad."

"Supreme Intelligence," added Ariſtes, "deign to view all the cli-

 "mates,

" mates of the globe we mortals are " condemned to inhabit ; every " where you ſhall meet with ridi- " cules ; often vices ; but no where " wiſdom free from folly. The " world ſhould ſoon be at an end, if, " for its preſervation, a man muſt " be found either perfectly wiſe or " perfectly happy." The Genius pro- miſed to ſpare the Taciturnians, but ſaid they muſt ſerve under the Frivo- lites.

ARISTES had the courage to ob- ſerve again, that to take away the emulation of the two nations, was no leſs than to deſtroy all the little ſtock of virtue they had left. " Such is " the nature of man," purſued the

Frivolite

Frivolite ſage, " that he would aim " at no improvement, was it not for " the ſake of being more eſteemed " than his neighbours." At laſt Alaciel promiſed to be contented with the reforming of the two nations. He even gave Ariſtes leave to join his obſervations to the laws he was going to make.

HERE you have both the laws and commentaries, as they were tranſmitted to us by a famous Cabaliſt.

L A W I.

LUXURY ſhall be baniſhed both nations.

THEIR opulence makes luxury neceſſary.

II.

THE great ſhall be allowed no longer to ruin themſelves. They ſhall take care to keep neither ſelf-intereſted ſteward, nor a covetous miſtreſs.

IMPOSSIBILITY. Beſides the ruin of one great man, may be the making of twenty poor families.

III.

THE Taciturnians ſhall have a regular ſpectacle, or none at all.

THE worſt would be to have none at all.

IV.

THE Frivolites ſhall ſuppreſs all farces and parodies.

WE ought to pleaſe all taſtes. The dancing bear, and the boiling kettle divert our philoſophers: a hero transformed into a peaſant pleaſes the crowd.

V. TYMON

V.

TYMON ſhall ſtand upright, and give up his paradoxes.

THAT would be giving up his own exiſtence.

VI.

ALL philoſophers ſhall prefer the honour of being rational to that of being ſingular.

As few people would then pretend to philoſophy, as there are now who don't pretend to be philoſophers.

VII.

THE learned ſhall diſpute cooly.

No diſpute without heat.

VIII.

THE nature of things ſhall be agreed upon, and no diſputes held about words.

No more doctors then: every one might know as much as his neighbour.

IX. THE

IX.

THE men ſhall marry to live with their wives, and not to force them to celibacy.

Celibacy is not clearly proved.

X.

THE women ſhall join to the air of modern gallantry all the fidelity of ancient times.

THE ſovereign Genius is deſired to ſhew the epocha of thoſe times.

XI.

THE women of Jocunda ſhall uſe leſs freedom for the future.

The ſovereign Genius is intreated to calculate the number of all the cuckolds in Japan, Conſtantinople, or Pekin. We dare venture to ſay, great as the number of them is amongſt us, it is no leſs conſiderable in thoſe countries.

XII. THE

XII.

THE Frivolite phyſicians ſhall, for the future, be more taken up with their patients, than with their own horſes.

Agreed.

XIII.

THE Taciturnian nobles ſhall no longer fiſh but in ſtreams of their own; any abuſes whatſoever lately introduced, and countenanced to the contrary notwithſtanding.

If they ſhall be found guilty of the ſame in time to come, let them be fined or forced by law to ſubſcribe the ſame ſums towards ſetting up in buſineſs ſome poor families, the moſt deſerving in their ſeveral pariſhes, as they have ſubſcribed lately, and daily do ſubſcribe, to their ſhame be it ſpoke, towards the ſupporting of a common ſtream, which can never run clear notwithſtanding all they brag to the contrary, ſince it is eaſy to prove, beyond all doubt, that the moſt ſtinking bog-houſes of Sombragloomy fall into, and communicate with it.

XIV. EVERY

XIV.

EVERY Petit-Maitre, honoured with the favours of an amiable woman ſhall modeſtly keep his good fortune to himſelf, and give over boaſting falſely of his ſucceſs.

Agreed.

XV.

OLD age ſhall dare to ſpeak in the preſence of youth, and youth ſhall liſten to old age.

Agreed.

XVI.

THE Frivolites ſhall no more kill their beſt friends for the ſake of "le "point d'honneur; and the Taciturnians ſhall no more make away with themſelves out of mere caprice.

Agreed.

THE

XVII.

THE Taciturnian women ſhall love leſs, and the Frivolite women ſhall love more.

Agreed.

XVIII.

THE latter ſhall go as uſual to the ſpectacles; but they ſhall give over the ancient cuſtom of love knotting there.

Hard article!

XIX.

THE jargon of the female fops ſhall be baniſhed, with that of the precieuſes ridicules, and ſentiment which they have exiled, ſhall be immediately called back and reſtored.

ROME was not built in one day.

PRE-

XX.

PRECEPTS ſhall be leſs ſevere, and manners more pure. Every one ſhall preſume to edify rather than to reprehend. What they called zeal ſhall diſappear, and the ſpirit of peace and humanity ſhall take place.

NOT, I fear, in our time. All the foregoing laws are, indeed, worthy the wiſdom of a ſovereign Genius; but human wiſdom does not reach ſo far. Some foibles and illuſions muſt be allowed; the firſt for the ſake of Nature's infirmity; the latter to fill up its emptineſs: man muſt be employed, or rather amuſed; and it is but too well known, that a ſage is no amuſement for a ſage: two nations compoſed of ſages only, might abſtain from mutual ſlaughter, but they would live in wearineſs of ſpirit.

THIS laſt reaſon appeared to the Genius to be very concluding; therefore he gave leave to each nation to keep its own ridicules, and to have a better opinion of itſelf than of its rival.

FINIS.

BRITISH MUSEUM 4 NO 73

35